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Islamic Affairs

Arabs, Muslims Said Perceived as 'Terrorists' in U.S. [Paris AL-MUHARRIR 8 May]

95AE0025A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 8 May 95 p 13

[Article by Abd-al-Salam Masariwah: "Arabs and Muslims Pay Cost of Americans' Terrorization of America; Four Arabs Killed in Oklahoma Bombing; Counterterrorism Bill Drafted in Coordination With U.S. Zionist Organizations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—You are Arab, you are Muslim, then you are a terrorist, regardless of whether you have committed an act violating the law or whether you are a businessman, a university professor, a physician, or even an artist. It is enough that one be an Arab or a Muslim in order that one's name be included in the list of "dangerous persons" who are kept under microscopic surveillance by U.S. security agencies throughout the United States.

Because the number of Arabs and Muslims bearing the U.S. identity or living in the United States as foreigners on legitimate residence permits is estimated at millions, it can be said that the conduct and actions of millions of people in the United States are suspected. Suspicion leads to harassment in their private life, their fields of work, social relations, and humanitarian activities.

You are Muslim, your are Arab, then you are accused in the United States until you prove you are innocent. Persecution of Arabs is not confined to Muslims but also includes Christians. The American-Arab Anti-Defamation Association has compiled a dossier that dates and documents the harassment and the persecution to which Arab U.S. citizens, be they Muslims or Christians, are subjected. The violations to which they are subjected dashed out of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and crossed the states of Texas, Iowa, New York, Arizona, Washington, and Virginia with the speed of lightning.

As an example of the psychological and physical terrorism practiced against Arabs and Muslims, the association dossier includes complete and comprehensive lists of racist practices, of which we have chosen the following sample:

- Even though the U.S. terrorists who bombed the government building in Oklahoma were exposed, a mob in Oklahoma City stoned a pregnant Arab woman, wounding her seriously. Subsequently, the woman was taken to a hospital, where she suffered a miscarriage. It was found out that the embryo had been killed in the womb because it was hit by rocks. Another Arab citizen complained to the police about a "mob" that had gathered around his home and started stoning him, threatening him with loudspeakers and warning him to leave the city.
- In Tulsa, Oklahoma, members of Arab and Islamic communities were subjected to dozens of assaults on their person, their dignity, and their property. The police have registered most of these assaults in their records. The Islamic Association in Tulsa alerted its members to the need to notify the police center of any harassment or attacks to which they are subjected.
- The Islamic Association building in Sweetwater, Oklahoma, was stoned, and "unidentified persons" opened fire on it.
- There was an amazing incident in Richardson, Texas. While 60 children were leaving an Islamic child care center and walking behind the principal, they were assaulted by a young man driving a sleek car. He shouted at them, raising his fist in the air, "This bomb is for you." He then hurled a bag full of soda bottles at the children and disappeared from sight. This happened after dozens of threats had been made against the center and against the biggest mosques in Texas.
- Brooklyn, New York, recorded the largest number of phone and letter threats. Not a single Arab business establishment escaped such threats. Arabs began to avoid public places as much as possible, especially coffee shops and restaurants, and they have contented themselves with traveling from their homes to their workplaces, no more and no less. As for those whose work requires them to move from place to place, they are reviled by pedestrians. Some American establishments have notified others that they will stop doing business with them if they continue to send them Arab or Muslim employees. Phrases such as "we will slaughter your children, we will rape your women, we will wipe you out of existence like bugs" have become commonplace.
- In Washington, the Islamic-American Relations Council has received threats against the lives of its members and warnings not to engage in any kind of activity or else be blown up.

What happened in the first moments following the explosion is still going on. Those who showed up on U.S. television screens as "experts in terrorism affairs," who proceeded to analyze, theorize on, and explain "Arab and Islamic terrorism" methods, and who applied their theories to the Oklahoma bombing have persisted in their ideas even though the "white" Americans involved in the bombing have been exposed. None of those "experts" has apologized to American

Arabs or American Muslims. Everything here shows that there is predetermination to "dress" Arabs with the responsibility for terrorist acts, even though this effort has failed in Oklahoma. It is very easy to attach accusations to Arabs and Muslims in the United States, and it has become even easier in wake of the bombing.

Here is a U.S. paradox. It is logical to say that the Oklahoma bombing should have eliminated suspicions from Arabs and Muslims. Instead, it has strengthened these suspicions and it has given the security agencies, through the counterterrorism bill being drafted by the congress, broad powers to pursue "suspects until they are proven innocent."

Paralysis of Arab and Islamic Associations

The question about the failure to offer any apology to Arabs and Muslims comes to mind in wake of this horrible paralysis that is devouring the U.S. Arab and Islamic associations. The intended paralysis here pertains to the literary, political, and social value of these associations. On this particular issue, one must pause before the Gulf war.

During that crisis and in the period from the invasion of Kuwait to the start of the war, former U.S. President George Bush found that he had to polarize the Arab and Islamic communities and to make them accept the war idea. If these two communities had no weight at the time, Bush would not have found it necessary to address them. But he did address them, and he promised Arabs and Muslims that he would lead the Middle East to a peaceful solution as soon as the Iraqi-Kuwait crisis—a crisis requiring a U.S. war to "liberate Kuwait"—ended. U.S. Government departments were able to attract a considerable number of leaders of Arab and Islamic associations who proceeded to make resounding statements in support of the war plan. So, the battle occurred, the equations were upturned, and the "collaborators" were surprised to find the U.S. administration's doors closed in their faces. The administration used them to carry out a specific task, and they executed it ideally. Thus, their role ended and the "rot is from within," as the common saying goes.

The "collaborator's" role and the miserable end the collaborators met has caused the Arab and Islamic bloc to lose whatever influence it had, small as it might have been. Thus, this bloc has no influence with President Bill Clinton, and he owes it no "favors."

Zogbi and Exclusion of Arabs

Dr. James Zogbi, head of the Arab-American Institute, has touched on the absence of any Arab influence in the administration of the current president, whether in the White House, the National Security Council, or the State Department. Moreover, James Zogbi has emphasized that administration decisions concerning Arabs "are made at the centers of hostile Jewish organizations." For example, the "counterterrorism" bill, which gives security agencies powers exceeding what is permitted by the constitution, was drafted in cooperation with the chairmen of Zionist organizations. These chairmen acknowledged this fact in statements made to the Jewish American press. Meanwhile, the U.S. administration did not seek the opinion of any Arab or Islamic association during the drafting of the bill.

James Zogbi has expressed surprise that President Clinton has met no official of the Arab or Islamic organizations since he assumed power, whereas he has left no Jewish occasion pass without leading the audience. Exclusion of the Arab American communities in this manner signifies several things that give the impression that there is a plot in every sense of the word against these communities.

It seems that American Arab circles have begun stirring, and it is expected that this movement will assume a new dimension aimed to alleviate as much as possible the measures that are taken against Arab Americans. At the end of last month, Khalil Jahshan, head of the Council of Arab-American Associations, presented to the Justice Department, even though this department has excluded these associations, a memorandum in which he refuted the perils cited in the "counterterrorism" bill. In his memorandum, Jahshan touched on the definition of "terrorism" as contained in the bill, saying that this definition includes legal and legitimate activities, thus curtailing the margin of activity of charitable and humanitarian associations and posing a threat to these associations while making armed militias feel very comfortable! What a paradox!

It seems, according to reports, that four Arab Americans were killed in the bombing of the government building in Oklahoma. Moreover, an Arab physician called Ghazi Mas'ad was most energetic among members of the medical team that aided the wounded in wake of the incident. Many Arabs and Muslims have not hesitated to provide financial assistance and to donate blood to rescue the wounded. But this effort has been obliterated in the media and in the officials' statements, beginning with President Clinton, who has not addressed a single word to Arab or Muslim Americans, keeping in mind that they are equal, theoretically, to other U.S. citizens.

The biggest disaster is in the position taken by some heads of Arab and Islamic associations who have used the current circumstances as an occasion to exchange accusations with each other. Here, too, what a paradox!

Very regrettably, it seems that the principle of division is still embraced by Arabs and Muslims who are victims of organized U.S. terrorism. So will people like James Zogbi and Khalil Jahshan manage to repair what has been damaged by an entire epoch of triviality and irresponsibility?

Armed Islamic Opposition Faces Dissension

95LD0077A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 May 95 pp 26-29

[Article by Adil al-Jawjari: "Secrets of Splits and Physical Liquidations Among Terrorists; al-Fath Vanguards' Rebelled Against Ayman al-Zawahiri in Wake of Financial Disputes; Abbud al-Zummar Leads Terrorism From Jail; Nabil al-Maghribi Issues Instructions to Radicals in His Son's Shoes; Abu-'Ammar, Iraqi Radical, Sends Checks to Yasir Tawfiq al-Sari to Finance Radicals in Upper Egypt; Physical Liquidations Between Islamic Group and Shawqi Group in Bani Suwayf; Battles Between Brotherhood and Radicals in Asyut"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Observers have viewed the latest split within the ranks of the radical Jihad Organization, which is led from Geneva, Switzerland, by physician Ayman al-Zawahiri, as the beginning of the end of the most dangerous terrorist organization known to Egypt in the past two decades. Yasir Tawfiq al-Sari, an escaped 38-year-old leader, declared recently independence of al-Fath [Victory] Vanguards, which are the Jihad Organization's military wing; thus underlining the end of his relationship with al-Zawahiri. However, informed sources have told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that al-Fath Vanguards current leadership consists of the trio of Nabil al-Maghribi, Anwar Akashah, and Muhammad al-Aswani, all of whom have been in detention since 1981 in connection with the greater Jihad case, which followed the assassination of former President Anwar al-Sadat.

The sources have asserted that conflict among leaders of the radical Jihad Organization culminated recently when al-Fath Vanguards leadership elements discovered that Jihad's External Consultative Council, which includes al-Zawahiri, Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, Mustafa Hamzah, and Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, has been keeping for itself the major part of the financing received from Islamic communities through New York and the financial aid allocated for the organization by the Iranian Liberation Movements Bureau. Here is where the paradox surfaces. Al-Zawahiri disagrees with Tehran, but there are others in the Consultative Council who receive Iranian aid and who fail to remit to the Domestic Consultative Council enough funds to boost terrorist action against the government and society. This has motivated leaders at home to establish relations with an Iraqi radical called Abu-'Ammar, who lives in an Arab country, to secure the financing needed for the organization elements.

Confessions made by Muhammad Wadi' Ahmad Salam, the number one defendant in the fifth group of al-Fath Vanguards, which includes 42 defendants, reveal the role played by Yasir Tawfiq al-Sari, an escaped defendant, in the transfer of funds from Abu-'Ammar to the organization leadership in Egypt through Azizah Faris, Nabil al-Maghribi's wife. Muhammad Wadi' has said, "A check for 2,000 pounds drawn against the Arab Bank, Ltd., was received from a man called Yasir. Al-Maghribi's wife cashed the check, and the money was delivered to a brother to purchase Persol cans and children's firecrackers from al-'Atabah to be used for making bombs similar to Molotov bombs."

Wadi' confessed that they were compelled to deal with al-Maghribi despite his being in jail because it was difficult to reach al-Zawahiri, adding verbatim, "We put messages in the shoes of Muhammad, Nabil al-Maghribi's son, when he went to prison to visit his father. Al-Maghribi answered our messages in the same manner. We then purchased a briefcase and made a secret compartment in it to convey messages to al-Maghribi through his relatives who visited him in jail."

Al-Zawahiri and Al-Zummar

Confessions by the number one defendant in this case, listed as case No. 5 of 1995, revealed an interesting surprise, namely that Abbud al-Zummar, sentenced to a 40-year prison term in the case involving al-Sadat's assassination, is still the military commander of the Jihad Organization, contrary to what has been rumored about his joining the Islamic Group and his acceptance of the leadership of Umar Abd-al-Rahman, the blind shaykh. Wadi' asserted during interrogation that he had met with Tariq and Abbud al- Zummar in jail; that they had encouraged him to move forward; and that Tariq told him that it was important that he, Wadi', contact his family to obtain from them beneficial educational books.

Defendants from al-Fath Vanguards are careful to reiterate in their docks a slogan that has the significance to emphasize their distinction from the Islamic Group. They chant, "O Zawahiri, o Abbud, Muhammad's Army will return. Even though Ayman al-Zawahiri is the main defendant in al-Fath Vanguards case, which includes 500 defendants, Yasir Tawfiq al-Sari, considered the most important financier of the organization at present, asserted recently that "members of al-Fath Vanguards operate under al-Zawahiri's leadership no longer."

The sources have asserted that a new External Consultative Council has been formed for al-Fath Vanguards and that it includes Tawfiq al-Sari, Tharwat Salah Shihatah, who lives in Sanaa, and Adil al-Sayyid Abd-al-Qaddus, place of residence unknown, to manage terrorist action in the coming phase. It is noticed that two founders of al-Fath Vanguards, namely Muhammad Makkawi and Abd-al-Hamid Sultan, who live in Pakistan, have been excluded from the council.

A struggle developed between al-Zawahiri and Makkawi for al-Fath Vanguards leadership in May 1993 and culminated with the Makkawi group breaking away and forming the New Jihad Organization. Security agencies arrested 15 of this group's members, and 11 others were tried in Alexandria in absentia.

Terrorism Leaders

The sources believe that Jihad has lost its effectiveness because of disagreement between the External Consultative Council and Domestic Consultative Council, plus the preemptive security blow that was dealt the organization in wake of the two attempts on the lives of the current prime minister and minister of interior. Those attempts sent nearly 500 active Jihad and al-Fath Vanguards members to jail, thus leaving the groups and cells without a central brain to plan their operations. One should keep in mind that Jihad depends on a pyramidal organizational structure that practices maximum secrecy and that ignores the media completely whereas the Islamic Group embraces the method of autonomous cluster groups. The Islamic Group is also keen on sending announcements to the press and news agencies in the wake of every terrorist operation it carries out.

The sources have also asserted that a dispute developed recently between Abbud al-Zummar and Ayman al-Zawahiri because of the latter's keenness on carrying out violent acts in Egypt to prove his presence and to prevent the Islamic Group from gaining the legitimate right to speak in the name of Egypt's Islamic movement. But Abbud al-Zummar views this approach as a threat to his concept or, to put it more precisely, his plan, which is known as "Sin Sad" [presumably an abbreviation for sa'at al-sifr, or zero hour]. This plan is based on preparing the largest number of terrorist elements secretly so they can move at a specific moment to accomplish a comprehensive revolution in Egypt.

It is well known that Abbud al-Zummar opposed the plan to assassinate President al-Sadat when it was presented to him. But he then agreed to it when Abd-al-Salam Faraj, the "organization founder," assured him that executors of the plan to assassinate al-Sadat would be inevitably killed at the parade grounds and that, consequently, the revolution plan had nothing to fear of the assassination attempt.

Qutbi Group

Abbud al-Zummar is inclined to annex groups breaking away from the Jihad Organization and to reunite them to form a single organization whose main mission is to infiltrate the masses. The most important of these groups is the group known as the Egyptian Hizballah, which has some cells in Cairo and Alexandria. This group's external official is Engineer Mahmud Shakir, who lives in Pakistan and who is a veteran leader of the Jihad Organization. Shakir disagreed with Ayman al-Zawahiri because of the conclusions made by the latter in his book, "The Bitter Harvest," viewing these conclusions as frustrating to Egypt's Islamic movement.

The groups called People Confident of Victory, the Refrainment and Clarification, and the Survivors of Fire, led by Dr. Majdi al-Safati who was captured by the police after a six-year escape, are small groups that broke away under certain circumstance and that operate independently, staging armed robberies against jewelry shops in Shubra, al-Zaytun, and Ayn Shams. Abbud al-Zummar assigned Abd-al-Ra'uf, a leadership member and armies amir [commander], to contact these groups and to persuade them to unite their efforts within the so-called All Out Popular Revolution to restore the Islamic caliphate. Abd-al-Ra'uf was able to recruit defendant Husam Hasan, a member of the Qutbi Group, into al-Fath Vanguards. But the security agencies had been watching this activity closely and were able to paralyze their movement before it could bear fruit.

Qamari Group

On his part, Ayman al-Zawahiri tried to attract other groups breaking away from Jihad, most significantly the Qamari Group, attributed to Isam al-Qamari who was killed in a confrontation with security men but who still has a group in al-Jizah, and leader Nazih Nushi Rashid Group,which carried out the attempt on the life of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. Rashid had disagreed with the Jihad Group in Peshawar because of this group's refusal to acknowledge Shaykh Umar Abd-al-Rahman as its leader and its determination to consider Abbud al-Zummar, who is currently jailed in Turrah Prison, the sole leader under whose banner the group works. Al-Zawahiri relies on gaining the elements' loyalty with money. Majdi Muhammad Salim, one of the most prominent defendants in al-Fath Vanguards, confessed that he had obtained $12,000 through a money order drawn against an Egyptian bank and sent by al-Zawahiri via a Kenyan bank headquartered in Nairobi to purchase weapons from Upper Egypt and to store them in secret caches, taking advantage of dropping weapon prices in the wake of a campaign launched by the security agencies against black market weapon sale centers.

Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi asserted in press statements that "radical leaderships abroad have set the prices of terrorist operations at $30,000 per operation. Moreover, they have allocated sums amounting to $10,000 for every member assigned to purchase weapons and disguise materials and to live in a furnished apartment."

Mediation Abroad

Informed sources point out the attempt by Muhammad al-Zawahiri, Ayman's brother who is currently living in an Arab country, to mediate with Yasir Tawfiq al-Sari to remerge al-Fath Vanguards in the Jihad Organization.

Security sources find it unlikely that competition between Jihad and the Islamic Group will ignite the fire of violence for two reasons:

—First, Jihad has lost its striking force since the arrest of al-Fath Vanguards and as a result of splits at the leadership levels and of the security agencies' blockade of external financing sources. This loss was evident in the latest and most violent operations carried out by the organization. The attempt on the interior minister's life confirmed a severe shortage of cadres trained in heavyweight operations. Nazih Subhi Rashid relied on a new and inexperienced element, a fact that led to that element's death in the incident. After this operation, Jihad cadres resorted to robbing jewelry shops to finance the organization and to purchase weapons, a fact that led to their fall into policemen's hands by the dozen.

The second reason is the fact that the Islamic Group itself has not escaped splits, even mutual physical liquidations to settle accounts. The group lost the ability to move when a number of its leaders were executed and others arrested. As a result, group pockets are found only in Malawi and some al-Minya Governorate villages where these pockets continue to carry out violent acts, exploiting the corn and sugar cane fields. However, security sources assert that this summer will see the end of terrorism in al-Minya now that the security agencies have succeeded in uprooting terrorism in Dayrut and other Asyut towns.

Renunciation and Migration

The Islamic Group experienced a number of splits, especially in al-Fayyum, "Umar Abd-al-Rahman's birthplace;" in Bani Suwayf, and in al-Minya, where the Shawqi Group—attributed to its founder Shawqi al-Shaykh who was killed in violent acts experienced by al-Fayyum in 1990 on the hands of Umar Abd-al-Rahman's supporters—tried to impose its control on a number of villages and to prevent Islamic Group and Jihad supporters from entering them. The Shawqi Group embraces the concepts of the Renunciation and Migration Group, founded by Mustafa Shukri. This group's members take refuge in remote areas as some sort of isolation "far from the ignorant society," waiting to return to pounce on society and to change it by force.

Even though the Shawqi Group consists of no more than 90 elements, its members are characterized by severe aggressive tendencies, especially when they need supplies. They raid corrals, steal livestock, and sell it in the markets under armed guard. One group member stole his mother's "jewelry" on the basis of a religious dispensation by one of the amirs declaring the mother an infidel because of her failure to pray. Consequently, it was permissible to rob her. This happened in al-Fayyum, where report No. 5063 was recorded.

In Ibshway, al-Fayyum provincial capital, three armed Islamic Group members opened fire on and killed Muhammd Jad Abd-al-Jawad while he was walking next to his father near his village farmlands. The father pursued the perpetrators and was able to kill one of them, namely Uways al-Sayyid Ali, with an ax. It later became evident that both murdered men had been Islamic Group members and that one of them joined the Shawqi Group and was killed as a punishment.

Battles With Bladed Weapons

In Bani Suwayf, Islamic Group members and others from al-Harakiyun Group used cleavers and bayonets in a battle that erupted between the two sides as a result of competition for sermon-making at a private mosque that had been monopolized by the Islamic Group. After the battle, Islamic Group radicals issued a religious dispensation making it permissible to kill Wa'il Safwat Rashwan because of his affiliation with the Jihad Group. Islamic Group radicals tied Rashwan, gagged him, killed him, and then dumped his body in an irrigation canal.

In case No. 4625, Bani Suwayf Police Precinct, a report was made citing an Islamic Group assault on Ali Sharif Qarni, a leader of al-Harakiyun Group, which caused him a brain concussion. The Islamic Group was not content with this but proceeded to mutilate Qarni's body. However, the strangest case of physical liquidation by radicals is the case of Husam al-Batwaji, al-Harakiyun leader in Bani Suwayf. Islamic Group members, led by Ahmad Yusuf Hamadallah, pounced on and killed al-Batwaji and injured two of his supporters. During interrogation, Ahmad Yusuf confessed that he killed al-Batwaji because the latter had accused him of being a homosexual.

'Abd-al-Rahman's Enemies

Husam al-Batwaji was Umar Abd-al-Rahman's archenemy, and he specialized in initiating rumors about Abd-al-Rahman, thus influencing his popularity in Bani Suwayf, even though Abd-al-Rahman has many supporters in Bani Suwayf because he is married to the daughter of Hajj Hasan Sa'id al-Qutb, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, who harbored Abd-al-Rahman at his home near the power plant in the old Bani Suwayf in the early 1970's. For its physical liquidation acts and to take revenge on its enemies in Bani Suwayf, the Islamic Group relies on al-Shadir Group Shadir Group, which consists of 25 elements armed with automatic rifles and bladed weapons. These elements are prepared to implement the group leaders' instructions without giving them any thought, especially against the Ancestralists [al-Salafiyun] who supported Shaykh Abd-al-Ma'bud al-Asturji. The latter has mobilized his supporters through their mosque in Bani Suwayf to confront the Islamic Group elements, whom al-Asturji considers "people who understand nothing where religious affairs are concerned." The conflict between the Islamic Group and the groups that have broken away from it is reflected in al-Minya University, which has produced radical elements since the early 1980's. Al-Minya Security Directorate has recorded seven reports against suspects from the Islamic Group who clashed with students belonging to the Ancestralist and al-Qutbi groups. The conflict has extended to Malawi, Bani Mazar, and Maghaghah, which are areas where elements of Jihad and the Islamic Group are found and where the conflict assumes a tribal character because big families there try to gain influence by joining some radical groups, especially the Muslim Brotherhood.

Jihad and Brotherhood

Even though numerous pieces of evidence confirm the presence of organizational relations between the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and the Islamic Jihad at the base level and even though this appears clearly in the fact that attorneys who belong to the MB, such as Mukhtar Nuh and Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, have been representing defendants accused in violence and terrorism cases, there are differences on the real ground between the cluster cells of the Islamic Group and of Jihad on the one hand and MB cadres on the other because the radicals accuse the MB of "having bought the world and entered into peace with the government." This accusation is reiterated at times of union, local, and legislative elections. In the latest Lawyers Union election, Jihad and Islamic Group elements refrained from voting for brotherhood candidates. In the 1990 parliamentary election, radicals issued a statement criticizing the MB even though the MB took no part in that election. Political observers expect a clash between the MB and the radical religious groups in the Consultative Council election, which will be held next June. Islamic Group sources have asserted that Shaykh Umar Abd-al-Rahman's fatwa [religious legal opinion or dispensation] considering the parliament unlawful is still valid and that the group's Domestic Consultative Council, which includes Isam Abd-al- Majid, Karam Zuhdi, Usamah Hafiz, and Safwat Abd-al-Ghani, has refused to enter into alliance with the MB because of the MB's "reform" program.

Radicals and Parliament

Muntasir al-Zayyat, the radical groups' legal agent, has asserted that these groups have not altered their position toward the legislative election. Within this framework, political observers assert that there will be political conflicts and bloodshed in Upper Egypt between the MB and the radical groups before, during, and after the Consultative Council and parliamentary (People's Assembly) elections and that attorneys and physicians in Upper Egypt are engaged in mediation efforts to persuade the Islamic Group not to harass brotherhood candidates, considering that the "goal is the same, even though the paths to attain it are numerous."

This mediation has followed clashes at Asyut University between the two (Islamic Group-MB) factions' supporters because of their competition to organize a fair on Bosnia and Chechnya. Islamic Group supporters tore up a number of posters dealing with the MB's contributions to aiding Bosnia's children. Clashes ensued and the radicals used iron chains and bladed weapons in them. University guards intervened to break up the clashes.

Security sources believe that conflicts at some locations between the MB, the Islamic Group, and Jihad do not nullify the coordination that takes place among them at other locations. The MB has provided places of residence to a large number of radicals who fled Upper Egypt to Cairo, Alexandria, and al-Mansurah. Moreover, the MB supports the groups financially through contributions that it has been actively collecting in the name of Bosnian and Chechen victims and the name of other Islamic minorities in Burma, Tashkent, and the Philippines. It remains to be said that the disagreement in opinion between these groups, no matter how narrow, immediately turns into charges of infidelity and treason and then develops into the issuance of physical liquidation decisions, all of which reflects the dangerous character of these terrorist groups.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Wants Turkey To Use Influence With Israel

NC2106093995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, 21 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised President Husni Mubarak's recent position on Middle East peace, which calls to convince all parties to comply with the agreements signed in Oslo and Cairo.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Ankara, 'Arafat said Egypt wants the parties to establish a sense of confidence, because this will have a positive affect on the peace process. He noted that there will be destructive repercussions if confidence is shaken, and that this should be avoided.

'Arafat said he wants peace, not capitulation. He said peace can help bring a just, comprehensive solution, capitulation cannot possibly produce this.

The Palestinian president voiced hope that Israel will fulfill its obligations and that the Israeli forces' redeployment and the Palestinian elections will proceed as scheduled. He said this will push the peace process forward and let the Palestinians realize the importance of peace in the region.

On his current visit to Ankara, 'Arafat said he wants to use Turkey's influence as a strong country in the region that has good relations with Israel. He said he urged Turkish officials to help the Palestinian side in the peace process by contacting Israel and convincing it to implement what has been agreed upon.

He said he urged Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to offer economic aid to the Palestinian people.

He said he is glad that Turkish political parties understand the Palestinian question. He explained that each party leader he met during the visit expressed support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the just Palestinian cause.

'Arafat said Turkish-Palestinian business cooperation will witness great strides, especially since the Turkish Government has promised to extend the remaining aid, estimated at $50 million, to finance projects that will be implemented by Turkish and Palestinian businessmen in the self-rule areas.

Comments on Visit, Departs Ankara

JN2006184895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from the Turkish capital, Ankara, a short while ago. Following his arrival at the Presidential Offices in Gaza, 'Arafat stressed that his visit was constructive, positive, and fruitful.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Unidentified correspondent] ...in Turkey?

['Arafat] The visit was constructive, positive, and warm. We discussed several issues, starting with the Palestinian-Turkish relations. We also underlined what was agreed upon between us and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller when she was here, particularly concerning economic issues. Moreover, we discussed the role Turkey can play as an important regional power to boost the peace process and to place all its weight to help ensure a sincere and precise implementation of what was agreed upon and signed in Washington and Cairo.

[Correspondent] Have you discussed the 1 July deadline?

['Arafat] Of course, this was one of the things we discussed. [end recording]

'Arafat met with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. Turkey's largest university conferred on 'Arafat an honorary doctorate degree in a festival it organized on the occasion of his visit to Turkey.

'Arafat: No Elections in 'Shadow' of Occupation

TA2106081795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement was issued on behalf of Yasir 'Arafat this morning to the effect that elections in the territories cannot be held in the shadow of the Israeli occupation, adding that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment must be implemented in all West Bank cities.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, the Palestinian Authority [PA] chairman's media adviser, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians are demanding an unalterable and accelerated timetable for the withdrawal of IDF forces. Any delay in the redeployment will also hold up the elections. The statement came in the wake of a report aired this morning in which Israeli political sources say that some bypass roads in the West Bank, mainly in the Ramallah and Bethlehem area, will be completed only in half a year and that, therefore, the IDF withdrawal in these areas will be delayed.

At the same time the Palestinian police are continuing their preparations for the redeployment, with senior representatives visiting Tulkarm and Nabulus on its behalf. Colonel Faysal Abu-Sharih, commander of Force-17, visited Nabulus, various points located near the Green Line, and the Khuzuri agricultural college near Tulkarm.

Abu-Rudaynah Blames Israel for 'Failure' in Talks

JN2106102395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that legislative elections cannot be conducted under the Israeli occupation army. He said the Israeli Army must redeploy away from all cities, villages, and refugee camps, without exception. In a statement to the press, Abu-Rudaynah added: We understand that redeployment and withdrawal need time, however, this should take place according to a set timetable and expeditiously. The president's adviser held Israel responsible for the failure to reach an agreement until now.

Al-Husayni: Jerusalem Should be Joint Capital

MM2006130595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Samir Nasir: "Faysal al-Husayni: Jerusalem Should Be Capital of Two States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London— Faysal al-Husayni, the official in charge of the Jerusalem Affairs in the National Palestinian Authority, has affirmed that Jerusalem should be considered a united city and capital of both Palestine and Israel at one and the same time.

Faysal al-Husayni said as much yesterday before the conference on "The Current Situation of Jerusalem and the Future of the Peace Process," which was organized in London by the "International Campaign for Jerusalem" society in conjunction with the Political Geography Department at London University's School of [Oriental and] African Studies. He said: "Jerusalem is our capital, and I do not need to explain why. I hate to see Jerusalem divided as it is now. We must rid ourselves of this wrong formula if we wish to find a solution for this problem. Jerusalem must become an open city for all, and all must feel that Jerusalem is their capital."

He said that "in the coming century there will be no place for small states (in which he included Britain, France, and Italy). The same thing will apply to the countries of the Middle East. So if we want to enter the coming century in an honorable way, Arab cooperation will be essential, and borders and causes of division among peoples must be eliminated."

He affirmed that "Palestinians' desire to have a state and a capital in the future stems from their desire for regional cooperation. There can be no stability without a homeland for the Palestinians. The Palestinians have suffered enough in the wider world and in the Arab world."

Faysal al-Husayni affirmed that "if the Palestinian cause is the essence of the Arab issues, then Jerusalem is the essence of the Palestinian question and is the factor that will determine whether there is peace or not in the future."

Al-Husayni said that he believes that "Muslims, Christians, and Jews should all consider Jerusalem their Jerusalem, and this will not be possible until Jerusalem is turned into an open city and a capital for Israel and Palestine simultaneously."

He said: "The Israeli leadership has to choose between considering Jerusalem its capital and thus making the city internationally insignificant, confined, and isolated, and considering it an open city and the capital of two states, in which case it will become a great world capital. I hope that the Israeli leadership will adopt the latter choice."

Faysal al-Husayni also spoke about how "the continuing Arab character of East Jerusalem has been evident in the schools, hospitals, and religious pulpits from 1967 through the present day," adding that anyone who visits Jerusalem will readily note the continuity of this character.

"Those who supported the Oslo Accords as well as those who opposed them by democratic methods," he said, "will abandon their moderate stance if Jerusalem is lost. Hence it is necessary for Israel as well as for countries around the world to appreciate the importance of this matter. It is likewise important for everyone to understand that the autonomous Palestinian Authority has been the barrier checking the spread of extremism in Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and other parts of the Arab World and that, if it fails to fulfill the Palestinian people's wishes in respect of Jerusalem, its position will weaken and the power of the extremist elements will grow."

In his replies to the questions put to him, Faysal al-Husayni affirmed that he supports the idea of holding a conference similar to the one held in London at "Orient House" in Jerusalem and that he favors the idea of an international city and the capital of two peoples over the idea of the internationalization of Jerusalem.

He affirmed "the need for the Western world to understand the importance of Jerusalem for the peace process in the Middle East. It is very important for the Arab leaderships to stress this point and for Israel to understand it as part of a long-term logic."

Faysal al-Husayni said that the Palestinians want to be treated on an equal footing with the inhabitants of the settlements in West Jerusalem. So that, if they were permitted to erect buildings in East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem, their position toward the settlements would change. But if different laws are applied to each of East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem, the Palestinians will not accept this.

Yesterday's afternoon session of the Conference was presided over by former British cabinet minister Ian Gilmour, now Lord Gilmour. A number of specialists and officials spoke during the session. They included 'Afif Safiyah, head of the Palestinian mission in London; Dr. Clovis Maqsud; Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad; Helena Koban [as transliterated]; Professor Halliday; and Israeli Professor Binyamin Beithalahmi.

Fatah's Habash Sets Terms for 'Conformity' With PA

MM1906153395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Central Committee Member Sakhr Habash Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israelis Trying To Trade 'Palestinization' of West Bank for Judaization of Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash (Abu-Nizar) has said that the committee is conforming to the Palestinian National Authority's reality and circumstances, especially in view of the 1 July deadline, specified as a date for implementing the second part of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

Habash told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Fatah Central Committee has linked its "conformity" with the authority over this issue to the need for the Palestinian Authority [PA] to adhere to three points:

First, the restationing — not redeployment — of the Israeli forces. Because restationing means withdrawing from the cities, villages, and camps as areas, not as boundaries of residential areas. The Israeli Army should be stationed around the settlements during the transitional phase so that all areas in the West Bank can be in direct contact with one another without any interference or barriers, thus averting the dismemberment of the West Bank as is the case in the Gaza Strip at present.

Habash added: In this connection we must learn from the mistake we made in Gaza. Because the Israeli Army's redeployment as understood by Israel led to dismembering the Strip through Nezarim, Kefar Darom, and other settlements in a manner such that Israeli forces are now in control of vast areas of the Strip on the pretext of protecting the roads leading to these settlements.

Second, with regard to the elections, they should be held in a manner with which the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would not be exposed to the presence of the occupation forces, ensuring that their new positions guarantee their nonreturn to their present positions. This is in addition to the need to secure adequate conditions in order to achieve an agreement on Jerusalem, on the grounds that it is part of the final solution. He pointed out that the final solution can be addressed immediately, especially as the Jerusalem battle is open now. It has been opened by the Zionists, who want to preempt the final solution in order to trade Judaization of Jerusalem for "Palestinization" of the West Bank.

He said: That is completely rejected, and our people in Jerusalem should participate in the elections as candidates and voters.

Habash stressed that members of the elected council would automatically become members of the Palestine National Council as representatives of our people in the Palestinian homeland.

He said that that should be understood fully. And it should also be understood that the Israelis' attempt to combine the election of the council and its speaker directly inside [the self-rule area] is an obvious attempt to hit the concept of Palestinian democratic centralism. Because the National Council speaker is stipulated in the PLO's system, and this system should not be affected by local elections that have their own head. He pointed out that one should differentiate in this context between the Authority's head in the transitional phase and the head of the state of Palestine — the PLO chairman — who represents not only the voters inside, but the Executive Committee, whose chairman is the authority for the Palestinian Authority.

Third, the need to transfer all powers to the National Authority at this stage and to stipulate that in order to pre-empt the Israelis and prevent them from imposing their solution plan based on imposing a state of power sharing with the Palestinian Authority so as to enable the Israelis in the future to impose self-rule as a final solution.

He said: Pre-empting the Zionist plan requires that the authority engage directly in the final solution negotiations in order to agree on how to dismantle the settlement and solve the Jerusalem problem by returning the east part of it, on the grounds that it is the capital of the independent state of Palestine. Then solutions should be drawn up as regards the borders and the refugees. As for the evacuees issue, the Zionists' procrastination at the recent quadripartite meetings in Beersheba is part of the procrastination and evasion policy, which is not going to dissuade us from our determination to demand our rights, and we will achieve our goal because no rights are lost as long as their owners continue to demand them.

Ministry on Expatriates' Right to 'Citizenship'

JN1906193795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Interior has said that the brother expatriates who carry valid exit cards or cards which were renewed by 17 April 1995 have the right to citizenship. In addition:

—These expatriates need not request renewal of the exit cards as long as they were valid up to 17 April 1995.

—There is no room for canceling the right to citizenship in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] areas for those whose registration was valid up to 17 April 1995 despite the fact that they have resided abroad for an indefinite period of time. These citizens can enter the PNA areas via the bridge across which they had exited.

Security Scrutinizing Work Permits for Collaborators

TA1806095995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by 'Amira Hass and Yosef Algazi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian security services have recently begun to examine all the work permits granted to Gaza Strip residents in order to weed out collaborators with Israel.

A Palestinian security official said that the granting of work permits was one of the methods employed by the Israeli Shin Bet to recruit collaborators. Several collaborators have already been exposed and warned.

A Palestinian political source said that one of the techniques used by the Shin Bet was to suddenly cancel the exit permit and then try and recruit those workers whose permits had been revoked in exchange for renewing the permits. According to the source, the exit permits — and especially the magnetic cards — of approximately 20 workers are revoked daily. [passage omitted]

Jihad Leader Wants Struggle To Free Prisoners

NC2006131295 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, June 20 (AFP) — The leader of the radical Islamic Jihad in Palestine said Tuesday [20 June] that a "jihad" or holy war was the only way to secure the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Fathi al-Shaqaqi was speaking as Palestinians staged demonstrations and hunger strikes in a huge campaign launched by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday to win the release of some 6,500 prisoners.

"Jihad is the only way likely to free the Palestinian hostages, and not (Israeli-PLO) negotiations which have dragged on uselessly since the signing of the Oslo accords" on autonomy, al-Shaqaqi told AFP.

"The continued detention of Palestinians in Israeli jails proves the uselessness of the accords and justifies the continuation of our struggle."

Islamic Jihad and nine other hardline Palestinian organisations opposed to the peace process with Israel held a sit-in at the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Damascus on Tuesday to support the prisoners' campaign.

"We demand that Israel frees the Palestinian prisoners unconditionally, especially the 132 women it is holding," al-Shaqaqi said.

Israel has released about 5,000 prisoners since the signing of the 1993 Declaration of Principles on autonomy, but is still holding another 6,500 according to Palestinian humanitarian groups.

'Arafat has called for a timetable for their release in talks with Israel on the extension of Palestinian self-rule.

West Bank, Strip Show Solidarity With Detainees

JN2006145695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning Palestinian political forces and popular figures began to stage sit-ins and marches outside the Red Cross centers throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in solidarity with the prisoners and detainees in the Israeli occupation jails. These detainees are staging an open political hunger strike and demanding their immediate release without restrictions or exceptions.

Sit-ins and marches have been staged in the cities of Bethlehem, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, Gaza, and Hebron with the participation of National Authority [NA] officials and representatives of the national factions.

Some 30 Palestinian female prisoners at the Tel Mond jail began a hunger strike today. The detainees at the Beersheba jail will join the strike tomorrow. The Palestinian national institutions and the NA called for staging a hunger strike throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip tomorrow.

Prisoners' Strike Spreads to Other Israeli Jails

TA2106062995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hunger strike by Palestinian security prisoners in Israeli jails and detention centers is widening. The strike spread from the central prison of Judaea and Samaria to the Tel Mond and Nafha jails. There are about 6,000 prisoners and detainees in those facilities. Prison authorities have been preventing visits by Arab lawyers during the hunger strike.

Hamas Will Not Suspend Operations 'Even in Gaza'

MM2006150795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Shaykh Ahmad Bahr Tells AL-HAYAH: Hamas Refuses To Suspend Armed Action in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A leading figure in the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has stressed the movement's refusal to suspend military action against the Israeli occupation, "even in the Gaza Strip."

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a prominent Hamas leader in Gaza, told AL-HAYAH over the telephone: "It is unreasonable for the Palestinian people and their mujahidin to be asked to suspend the resistance as long as the occupation and its settlements still exist, even in the Gaza Strip. The resistance will continue against the occupation in all its forms and colors."

It was reported recently that there has been a dialogue inside the movement concerning the formation of a political party for Hamas in the self-rule areas. Information was also leaked about the movement's intention to suspend military action. But its leaders hastened to deny this, accusing Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of being behind the Palestinian Islamic party plan and of arousing confusion over Hamas' suspension of armed action.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr's statement is consistent with recent statements made by all Hamas leaders inside and outside the occupied territories. But it is noted this time that he denied the existence of an agreement between Hamas and the [Palestinian] Authority to suspend armed action, beginning with the self-rule areas — which could rekindle tension between the authority and Hamas.

Shaykh Bahr added that "resisting the occupation is not a Hamas monopoly. It is the right of the Palestinian people as a whole." However, he stressed that "Hamas has always extended its hand to all parties on the Palestinian scene for dialogue in order to safeguard the Palestinian people and their stability and to spare blood." But he made that conditional on the suspension of "the storming and arrest campaign and the night trials conducted in the military state security court belonging to the Authority."

Shaykh Bahr did not rule out a meeting between the Authority and Hamas soon "in order to arrive at points of understanding in the relationship between the authority and those opposed to the agreement with a view to safeguarding national unity and spare Palestinian blood." However, he stressed that his movement "rejects any preconditions. And it does accept that some people are persistent in distorting its positions. And the movement has on several occasions declared its willingness to hear the other side's view. In return, it expects the other side to hear its view." The Palestinian Authority arrested Shaykh Ahmad Bahr more than once in the past on charges of attacking it.

Pro-Hamas AL-WATAN Permitted To Publish

TA2006140095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 95 p A2

[Report by 'Amira Hess in Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] The owner of AL-WATAN, the weekly identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], was yesterday permitted to reopen editorial offices, six weeks after being closed down for three months under verdict of the supreme military court in Gaza. The editor, Sayyid Abu-Musamih, was given a three-year sentence by the same court for publishing inflammatory material in the newspaper.

In the last few weeks, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and 'Abdallah Darwish mediated between PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the newspaper's owner 'Imad al-Faluji with the aim of reopening the weekly.

Al-Faluji yesterday received permission from the Gaza police commander to open the editorial office and publish the weekly. In exchange, al-Faluji announced that he is responsible for everything published and that he will abide by "the Palestinian publishing law" of 1936.

Al-Faluji said that he has called for the release of the editor Abu-Musamih.

Poll: 65% Support Negotiations With Israel

JN2006170795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jun p 7

[Report by Zaki Abu-al-Halawah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Research and Polls Unit at the Nabulus-based Palestinian Studies and Research Center has conducted its 16th poll, which focused on the negotiations, elections, election of the [Palestinian] Authority's chairman, the possibility of criticizing the Authority, the Palestinian camps, and the strength of political parties and movements.

The poll shows that there has not been any change in support for the negotiations process with Israel since the previous poll, which was conducted in March. Sixty five percent of the Palestinians support the negotiations and more than 30 percent oppose them.

Also, there has not been any change in President 'Arafat's influence. Some 55 percent of the people polled support him. No change has been noticed in support for the other figures. For example, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the Hamas spiritual leader, won 11.9 percent; Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, 8.4 percent; and Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 4 percent.

Regarding the elections, 26.6 percent said they think these elections will be fair, 26.6 percent said the elections will be relatively fair, and 19 percent said they will not be fair. The remainder of the people polled said they have no opinion.

The poll also shows that 21 percent will boycott the elections. Compared to previous polls, it now appears that 73 percent of the people will participate in these elections.

Regarding women's participation in the elections, the poll shows that 73 percent supported the participation of qualified women in these elections. The percentage of support in the West Bank was higher than that in Gaza Strip.

Fifty percent of the Palestinians polled said they can criticize the Authority without fear. The other 50 percent said it was relatively possible or that it was not possible to criticize the Authority.

Regarding the camps and the recent reports about the need to dismantle them and launch housing projects instead, the great majority of people polled said they support keeping these camps until the peace process is concluded, provided the living standards of the inhabitants are improved. One quarter of the Palestinians polled supported the building of housing projects in place of the camps.

The poll also shows that there has been no change in the strength of the various political groups. Fatah still enjoys the greatest support — 49 percent. Approximately 21 percent of the people polled voiced support to the opposition, comprising Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The overwhelming majority of the people polled said they support an end to the strikes on the ninth of every month — the day the intifadah was launched — and that a yearly anniversary should be introduced instead. It was noticed that the greatest support for ending the strikes came from workers and merchants. Independents were more in favor of ending the strike than people affiliated with political organizations.

The poll shows that unemployment among Palestinians is around 36 percent. Unemployment reaches up to 50 percent on the days in which Israel closes the areas and imposes military siege.

The poll shows that the Israeli and the Palestinian radios are competing fiercely to attract listeners. The percentage of listeners to the Voice of Palestine in the West Bank is higher than that in Gaza. The poll shows that Voice of Palestine is more popular than the Israeli radio in the West Bank and Gaza. The majority of listeners to Voice of Palestine were Fatah members. Listeners are also attracted to Radio Monte Carlo and the Jordanian radio. The poll shows that women listen more than men to the Jordanian radio.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Talks on Power Transfer Begin

NC2006124595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—The fifth round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority began in Cairo this morning. The Palestinian side to the negotiations is led by Jamil al-Tarifi, general coordinator for the civilian authorities in the self-rule area, while the Israeli side is headed by General Elan Shahur, government coordinator for Palestinian land affairs [name and title as received].

In a press statement, al-Tarifi said: During the three-day round of negotiations we will complete our talks concerning the outstanding files and will open new files on electricity, communications, and public works. Al-Tarifi expressed the hope that the Israeli side will implement what was agreed upon with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and according to the Declaration of Principles. I also hope we will work out an agreement concerning the transfer of powers to the Palestinian side before 1 July, al- Tarifi said.

In his statement the Palestinian official added that the problem is not the deadline. What is important is Israel's commitment to implementing the agreement. He said that experts from the two sides will discuss the technical details regarding the transfer of powers.

The Israeli side is made up of 65 members, while the Palestinian team consists of 33 members.

Phased Israeli Withdrawal Discussed

NC2006150695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks with Israel, said today that the Palestinians want a full agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank in two stages starting on 1 July. He stressed that the Palestinians will not accept the Israeli proposal to redeploy the Israeli troops in the cities of Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah, and Nabulus only but want the first stage to include the cities of Bethlehem and Hebron, too.

Al-Tarifi added that the Palestinians are willing to accept a phased Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank but within the framework of an agreement that includes a specific timetable for withdrawal.

Negotiators Continue Talks

NC2106101295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators today continued their talks on the transfer of powers to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Affairs, PA]. The Palestinian delegation is led by Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs with the PNA. The Israeli delegation is led by Aaron Shahor, government coordinator in the occupied territories.

The current three-day round of talks deals with the transfer of powers in the sectors of water, electricity, public works, and other yet-unresolved issues.

Several subcommittees held separate meetings to discuss the technical details of the transfer of powers in the aforementioned areas. The Israeli delegation has 65 members and the Palestinian delegation has 33.

In a statement before yesterday's talks, Palestinian chief negotiator Jamil al-Tarifi accused Israel of noncompliance with the Declaration of Principles, signed between the PLO and Israel in Washington in September 1993.

This round of talks, which is the fifth, is scheduled to end on 22 June.

Algeria

FIS Aide on Disagreement With State Department

MM2006150195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Haddam Tells AL-HAYAH: "Position on GIA Is Cause of Disagreement With Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has stressed that it was the Mission which refused to continue the dialogue with the U.S. Administration at the level Washington wanted. In an interview with AL-HAYAH, he said that the main cause of the disagreement with the U.S. State Department was the pressure it put on him to condemn the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. He said that he refused to condemn the actions of that group unless Washington provided evidence that it was behind "the acts of terrorism which we reject."

He said he is optimistic about the appointment of a new official in charge of the Algeria desk at the U.S. State Department to succeed Steve Kashkett, who is moving to another post at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. The new official in charge of that desk is Peter Fromen.

Commenting on the U.S. claim that Washington is not talking to him because he does not represent the FIS but is talking to Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, he said: "That kind of statement could only come from individuals at the U.S. State Department but not in the name of the department; but no foreign party has a right to decide who represents the FIS and who the FIS leaders are."

He added: "It was the Parliamentary Mission which over a year ago refused to continue contacts with the U.S. State Department at the level the latter wanted to impose on the majority party in Algeria [FIS]. We preferred the contacts to continue at adviser level. The reason was that they (the State Department) were putting pressure on us and wanted to dictate certain positions on us regarding what is taking place in Algeria. When they failed they began to smear the reputation of the Parliamentary Mission."

He added: "Our position was clear from the beginning. The people have a right to defend their elected institutions, and that is why we support the jihad and will not renounce some of the mujahidin groups nor discontinue our support for the unity which last year brought together the major factions within the GIA framework. They (the U.S. Administration) want to blame the GIA for all the crimes committed in Algeria, but we challenge them to produce evidence of that. But our support for jihad does not mean that we support terrorist operations. We, of course, condemn them but we call for a commission of inquiry into what is happening."

Asked about the level of contacts he wants with Washington, he replied that the United States should treat the FIS the same way it treats the rest of the Algerian parties.

Asked why he did not take a clear stand on the question of condemning terrorism, Haddam replied that the U.S. officials wanted him to condemn the GIA, maintaining that it was "behind all acts of terrorism. We say that we refuse to pin these charges on the mujahidin unless there is categorical evidence because we believe that terrorist operations cannot be carried out by groups seeking to liberate the Algerian people."

Asked what is his position on the killing of women, he replied: "Our position is a principled one and we have explained it. We completely reject terrorism and every action which violates the Shari'ah. We reject the killing of innocent people whether they are men or women. We reject the killing of teachers, politicians, writers, journalists, and anyone who does not participate in the security operations of the (official) military organs."

He was told that the GIA does not disclaim such actions. He replied: "There is a media war. The mujahidin do not have the means of information that would enable them to clarify their position. The aim of all this uproar about what is taking place is to distract public opinion from the genocide taking place in Algeria."

On the recent contacts between the authorities and the FIS leaders, Haddam said that he hopes "that it is a good initiative. Perhaps the regime has acknowledged the painful conditions of the Algerian people. We consider the meetings to be in fulfillment of a part of the first item in the demands of the parties which signed the national convenant in Rome stipulating that the FIS leaders should be allowed to consult among themselves. We have full confidence in Shaykh 'Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj. It is a first step which we hope will be followed by other steps."

President Zeroual Receives Libyan Envoy

LD1906160595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Liamine Zeroual has received Libyan Foreign Minister Jum'ah al-Fazzani [title as heard], as a personal envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri; Mihoubi Mihoub, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman for the presidency; and the Libyan ambassador in Algiers.

After the meeting, al-Fazzani talked about the meeting:

[Begin al-Fazzani recording] The president honored me this morning by receiving me as a personal envoy of the brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Fatih [1 September] revolution, bearing a letter for him concerning issues of mutual concern.

The president expressed Algeria's frank and resolute cohesion and solidarity with Libya in its efforts to lift the sanctions, which have brought about negative effects on the Libyan Arab people, the Arab Maghreb countries, and the union as an institution whose activities and those of its institutions have been curbed as a result.

Libyan and Algerian views are identical regarding Mediterranean, African, and Arab issues. [end recording]

Zeroual Receives Mauritanian Foreign Minister

LD1906174895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual ended his engagments today with a meeting with the Mauritanian foreign minister, who conveyed a message from the Mauritanian head of state, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and Mihoub Mihoubi, the diplomatic adviser and the official spokesman of the presidency.

Following the meeting, Mauritanian Foreign Minister Salem Ould Lekhel told us about the reason of the meeting:

[Begin Lekhel recording] I was carrying a verbal message from His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould'Sid Ahmed Taya to His Excellency Liamine Zeroual. Of course, the message dealt with the excellent relations between our two countries and it was within the framework of the continuous consultation about regional, Arab, Islamic, and African problems. However, Zeroual asked me to convey a reply to his brother president Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [end recording]

Al-Nahdah Leader Interviewed on Crisis, Solution

NC2006163595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jun 95 p 5

[Interview with Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, by Hisham Fahim in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fahim] The National Covenant grouping held a popular meeting in the capital last week. What is your assessment of this grouping with regard to the participation of the masses and the support for its proposals?

[Djaballah] The grouping was the first popular action by the opposition since the start of the crisis in early 1992. It was also the first collective action by the opposition in Algeria's history, despite the obstacles placed by the authority, including preventing many people from travelling to attend, suspending some newspapers that published the grouping's appeal, and imposing a media blackout on the grouping and the opposition's activities. The grouping, however, scored an unexpected success when 15,000 people filled the hall and responded to the speeches made, which clearly expressed the belief in the comprehensive and just political solution and also the determination to undertake joint action to convince everyone of this solution out of the belief that this is the ideal way that guarantees all the objective conditions for holding free and multiparty elections.

[Fahim] What can the National Covenant grouping do next following this meeting in the capital?

[Djaballah] We hope that this successful grouping will be a good start followed by other steps by the opposition that will mobilize the people's support for its objective. There is no program for specific action but an agreement on the need to mobilize the people behind the grouping to resolve the crisis.

[Fahim] What is the grouping's stance on the authority's endeavor to hold presidential elections, an endeavor that it is insisting on, since it has almost completed the preparations for holding them?

[Djaballah] There is yet no common stand on the question of elections. But the grouping firmly believes in the need to convince the authority in particular and the other opposition parties in general of the importance of embarking on a real dialogue about a number of the necessary conditions for holding free, fair, and multiparty elections. We believe that authority belongs to the people, who exercise their right through elections, which could be the real start for the restoration of security and stability, but not through elections that are not free, fair, and multiparty.

[Fahim] The authority has invited your party, among six opposition parties, to embark on a dialogue with it at the bilateral level. What is your stance on this new invitation?

[Djaballah] First, the National Covenant grouping has agreed that each party should make its stance on the new round of the dialogue freely. Our movement's principled stance is to send its delegation to the presidency to know the authority's response to its proposal of 9 April. Hence we regard the coming meeting as a continuation of the former one during which we made our proposal. We are waiting for the authority's response to it.

[Fahim] What is your movement's stance on the Hamas plan for national reconciliation?

[Djaballah] There are a number of plans. Any plan derives its value from its signatories, who are responsible for implementing it. There is a plan signed by the opposition active in Algeria, namely the Socialist Forces Front, the National Liberation Front, the National Salvation Front, the Ennahda Movement, the Movement for Democracy, and the Contemporary Muslim Algeria Party. We are committed to this plan and believe that it must be given priority and taken as a basis for discussion. The plan was submitted for discussion.

[Fahim] But the authority has rejected the National Covenant or the "Rome Document" plan for reasons it has declared. It appears that the Hamas plan could be the converging point that brings the authority and the opposition together.

[Djaballah] We believe that the plan we have delivered to the presidency is a better point of convergence because it was inspired by the National Covenant and by our concept of the solution. It was also inspired, from what we know about the authority's concept of dealing with the crisis. I am ready to give AL-AHRAM a copy of it.

Egypt

Musa: Contacts To Be Held on Israeli Nuclear Program

NC2006193695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that intensive contacts will be held in the near future regarding the Israeli nuclear program. In a statement to the weekly AL-AHRAM HEBDO in French published in its Wednesday issue, he said that the subject is not over merely because of the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He expressed his belief that the Lebanese track will be activated before a Syrian settlement is reached. He noted that it is not possible to completely separate the various tracks of the peace process.

Says Nuclear States Lack Respect for NPT

NC2006153695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has received an invitation from the Colombian Government to attend the Nonaligned Movement summit to be held in Colombia in October.

This was stated by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who added that holding the nonaligned summit in Colombia confirms the global aspect of the movement and shows that it encompasses not only Asia and Africa, but Latin America, too.

He said that during the summit participants will discuss the movement's political, economic, and social problems and other issues related to international security and disarmament.

Referring to the current situation regarding the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], which is gradually turning into a treaty not respected by nuclear countries and which imposes restrictions and commitments on nonnuclear countries only, he said that this is unacceptable. He added that Egypt warned of such a situation at the New York international conference held to revise the NPT and now it is being proven that the stance taken by the nonnuclear and nonaligned countries was a sound one. [passage omitted]

Musa, Colombian Foreign Minister Comment on Talks

NC2006125295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Garcia-Pena Pardo held a news conference today following two hours of official talks during which they discussed the summit of the Nonaligned Movement countries scheduled to be held in Colombia on 18 October. The summit will be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers on 16 October.

Musa said the talks with the Colombian foreign minister focused on the Nonaligned Movement summit, the future and activities of the movement, and the means of maintaining its effectiveness and role and of strengthening it so that it can shoulder its responsibility of serving its member countries. He added that the talks also dealt with the importance of boosting south-south cooperation, since such cooperation is a major aspect of cooperation among the nonaligned countries.

The Colombian foreign minister said they discussed the means of strengthening the excellent bilateral relations. He stressed the two countries' identical views on various international issues. The two sides agreed on the importance of laying down the basis for strong bilateral economic relations. He also said they discussed the issues facing the nonaligned summit his country will host. He stressed the need for the movement to keep pace with international developments so that it can play its role and defend the interests of its peoples. He also stressed the importance of south-south cooperation and the importance of encouraging Latin American-African dialogue and called for cooperation among countries to confront and end the drug problem.

Arabs Urge Nuclear Weapons Acquisition

95LH0149A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8 April 95 pp 19-22

[Report on interviews and opinion poll taken with prominent Arab intellectuals by unidentified correspondents; places and dates not given: "Arabs Must Take United Position Against Signing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a poll of opinions of Arab intellectuals in various parts of the Arab nation, a kind of consensus is crystallizing on the need for Egypt to adhere to its position of refusing to sign the indefinite renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], unless Israel signs it or, at least, is obligated to get rid of its nuclear arsenal in the future, perhaps after a comprehensive and just peace is achieved. There is also a consensus on the need for Arab support for the Egyptian position aimed at a true peace, based on a strategic balance and not on a deterrent, which the Israeli nuclear arsenal represents.

The Israeli nuclear arsenal has, since its inception in the sixties, continued to be the deterrent that has kept the Arab community militarily and politically weak, which led to the current uncertain peace agreements. Peace efforts, which had begun to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in exchange for land, have turned into peace in exchange for peace on terms that Israel wants.

It might be useful at this stage to condemn the peace process, because the alternative that Israel will use is to reinforce its settlement presence over an extensive and intensive area. Over the next few years, this will not leave the Arabs anything to demand. However, as a matter of course, it would be useful, as expressed by the intellectuals who participated in this poll, to work seriously to create a strategic balance.

We asked several questions of the participants in this poll. The first was whether it should be incumbent upon Arab nations to refuse to sign to renew the NPT for an indefinite period?

Ambassador Nabil Fihmi, political adviser to the Egyptian foreign minister, and chairman of Egypt's delegation to the Disarmament Committee in the multilateral talks:

"The Egyptian position vis-a-vis the issue of nuclear proliferation very simply is based on the need for equality among regional nations with regard to their legal obligations. In this context, it is a position that is based on the requirement of justice and legitimacy. Egypt believes that the true meaning of comprehensive peace in the region will not be achieved if the Israeli nuclear dangers continue. The Arab side in its present position concerning the nuclear NPT is looking for new security guarantees and balanced relations based on political dialogue instead of a military solution. This does not mean the Arab side is renouncing its right to build a strong military force to defend Arab sovereignty. What we are seeking is a comprehensive security understanding that will allow the national security of each party to be guaranteed within the context of limiting everyone's armaments."

Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, former chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces in the 1973 War:

"No one can oblige or coerce Egypt to sign the nuclear NPT, since it is its right, in view of Israel's ownership of nuclear weapons, to own similar weapons. Rather, all Arab nations have the right to own this weapon, which is considered the one and only way to balance the Israeli nuclear deterrent. There is considerable advantage for Egypt to refuse to sign the treaty. The position of Egypt or the Arabs in general must not be weakened or waver if two-thirds of the signers of the NPT approve. That would mean that it was necessarily binding on Egypt. But it is sufficient for Egypt to record its position, which is considered a step toward correcting the mistakes of the past."

Major General Mamduh 'Atiyah, an Egyptian expert on nuclear strategy:

"Before agreeing to sign the treaty during April 1995, it must be amended for several reasons, including the desire of certain countries, such as India, to amend it in such a way as to permit them to join the nuclear club. This continues to be clearly rejected by the West. This was also the announcement by the UN secretary general in January 1993 that the signing of the new chemical weapons agreement had the effect of increasing the need to crystallize a new treaty for nuclear weapons along the same lines. This would achieve nuclear disarmament goals on the international level.

"Accordingly, the Arab position, with regard to this treaty and its renewal, guarantees several main principles:

- the Arab nations' desire for an international commitment concerning principles of eliminating weapons of mass destruction;

%the Arab nations' desire for the universality of the new agreement, with all the nations of the world signing it, with Israel in the forefront of the signers;

%fragmenting the concept of weapons of mass destruction and endorsing a selective policy is unacceptable, since all weapons of destruction must be completely eliminated.

"Therefore the signing must be preceded by the granting of guarantees to the nonnuclear nations that the nuclear nations will not commit aggression against them. There must also be the insistence upon nuclear weapon-free zones, including the Middle East region."

Amin Hawaydi, former Egyptian minister of defence:

"The problem is not in signing or not signing the treaty, since that is a secondary question, because Israel monopolizes nuclear weapons in the region. That ensures Israel's presence will continue as a constant and continual source of danger not only against the Arab states, but also against most of the countries of the region. Through a scientific study entitled, 'The Arab-Israeli Struggle Between Traditional Deterrents and the Nuclear Deterrent', I looked into the capability of traditional deterrents, represented by chemical, biological, and incendiary deterrents, as counters to the Israeli nuclear deterrent. These deterrents were considered the least costly to produce and the easiest to manufacture. In addition, they would achieve the desired goal. This could be called the Arabs' super traditional deterrents. If Israel refused to get rid of its nuclear weapons and to sign the agreement, I would urge the Arab nations that it is necessary to attempt—with the maximum possible effort—to obtain super traditional deterrents, since you can only break iron with iron. [fight fire with fire]. Despite the pressure to which the Arabs are presently being subjected to sign the treaty, I would expect to see a unified Arab position to refuse to sign the treaty unless Israel signs and submits to its commitments."

Far from the decision-making circles and the calculations of agencies in both Cairo and Tel Aviv concerning the nuclear dispute connected with the NPT, which Egypt refuses to renew for an indefinite period, and Israel also refuses to sign, the questions currently being raised by those knowledgeable about the negotiations and strategic experts are: Was the current crisis between Egypt and Israel expected or not? What are the elements of the hard-line Egyptian position and its refusal to sign unless Israel signs? Should that be for a limited period of time? What are the hard-line calculations of the Israeli side for its part and its adoption of a policy of nuclear concealment? What are the mechanisms that the Egyptian negotiator might depend on with regard to managing the crisis?

AL-MAJALLAH interviewed Dr. Hasan Wajih, an expert on the negotiations:

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is your assessment of this crisis?

[Wajih] We are currently occupied with this extremely complex crisis, which raises hypotheses in a special and acute way. We must manage its consequences on both the present and future levels. Perhaps holding the reins of crisis management will require us to adopt a program of strategic interaction. This pertains to an attempt to assess accurately the points of departure and motives of the parties to the crisis, upon which they are basing their strategies with regard to managing the crisis. At this point accurate information must be sought, avoiding any interpretations that are emotional, reactive, or out of context. After adopting this program, we must adopt what is termed in crisis management methods, "a program of advantage," for the purpose of concentrating on the benefits that will be obtained through processes of negotiation and bargaining, in order to avoid having the worst possible settlement occur.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What are the elements and principles of the Egyptian position vis-a-vis the NPT?

[Wajih] The Egyptian position rests on refusing to extend the treaty as a principle, or rather, refusing to extend it indefinitely, as the United States demands, unless Israel signs it. The real problem at the present time is not with regard to signing the treaty, but rather with regard to the Israeli nuclear stockpile, which ought to be destroyed through agreements and negotiations. This could be the point of departure for a lasting and just peace for the good of everyone. The indefinite extension of the treaty and the approval of it would be tantamount to being imprisoned by obligations from which one could not be released in the future. Therefore, campaigns have now begun in Britain to endorse the Egyptian position, so that the extension would be subject to negotiations similar to reaching a new and balanced agreement that would include all the countries of the world and through which all nuclear weapons could be banned.

Moreover, Egypt's position starts from its discovery of attempts to take away its role as Arab and Islamic leader, under the guise of new concepts that are concealed behind the term "centralized East" [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSATIYAH]. Accordingly, the treaty and other things are opportunities to affirm that leadership role.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the Israeli position with regard to the treaty?

[Wajih] Israeli Prime Minister Yitshaq Rabin believes that "Every Israeli-Arab peace will be an armed peace and will only hold fast if the balance of military power is maintained in Israel's favor, through insisting that the Arab countries be denied possession of any conceivable nuclear energy, even if it were for peaceable purposes (such as the production of electricity for example), because that could lead toward their obtaining nuclear weapons." The Israeli position starts by attempting to eliminate the super traditional weapons that certain Arab communities possess, such as chemical weapons, known as the "poor man's nuclear weapons".

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is your interpretation of the American pro-Israeli position and its repercussions?

[Wajih] The American position sympathizes with the Israeli position. America wants Egypt to sign the treaty for an indefinite period. The pressure is continuous in this regard.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How can this crisis be managed to benefit Egypt and the Arabs?

[Wajih] First we must grasp an important fact about crises. That fact is that they may cause us more damage unless we manage them on a sound basis. Crises also represent an auspicious opportunity to correct erroneous situations and to gain impetus and a new negotiating position.

Therefore, we must adopt a two-sided strategy. The first is to clarify the strength and advantages of the Egyptian-Arab position, not only for itself, but also because it has advantages over the long haul for both Israel and the United States. The second side is that there must be indications and evidence of complete readiness to face its consequences, if the matter so requires.

Kuwaiti Views

Dr. Sa'ad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti writer:

"The Arab Position must be united in refusing to sign the NPT, unless Israel signs it. The stated purpose of this treaty is to prevent the spread of nuclear arms, so that this weapon may not threaten the destruction of nations and peoples who agree to sign it and to get rid of nuclear weapons as the choice of destruction. With regard to Israel's possession of the nuclear weapon, this is an undeniable fact. Naturally, those who possess these weapons of destruction should sign the treaty before nations that can only dream of a nuclear project. The Arab signing would commit us to giving up any form of Arab sovereignty, which would allow countries threatening nuclear aggression to do whatever strengthens their sovereignty and ensures their balance of power over the threatened countries."

Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Samar, legal adviser and former Kuwaiti minister of justice:

"I believe that it is incumbent upon the Arab nations to insist at the present time on refusing to renew the NPT, so long as there are countries in the region that attempt to put obstacles in the way as a pretext for not signing. Third World countries have the right to refuse to sign until there is an international consensus on this level. At that time, signing will assist in establishing the world peace that Third World nations desire, with the Arab nations in their forefront."

Dr. Badriyah 'Abdallah al-'Awadi, legal adviser and professor of international law in Kuwait University:

"I think that it is correct to reject signing the NPT in light of present conditions and the peace with Israel that has been imposed upon the Arabs. Israel is the only [regional] power that possesses nuclear power, but it does not officially admit having nuclear weapons. It insists on putting off any discussion of nuclear disarmament until after peace agreements with all the Arab countries are signed. The United States and the Western countries who possess the nuclear weapon support this position. This constitutes a serious and constant threat to Arab security."

Ahmad Yusuf Bahbahani, editor of the magazine, AL-YAQAZAH, and president of the Society of Kuwaiti Journalists:

"I believe that all the Arab and Islamic nations must support Egypt's position in refusing to sign the NPT, either for a definite or indefinite period, unless Israel signs and accepts inspection of its nuclear reactors."

Lawyer 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-'Uthman, president of the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association:

"All the Arab nations must refuse to sign to renew the NPT until it is signed by Israel and its nuclear facilities are opened for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. This position must be adopted and fought for by the Arab League."

Solidarity With Egypt

Ibrahim al-Bashari, Libya's representative to the Arab League:

"Libya supports the Egyptian position of refusing to sign the NPT. Out of solidarity with Egypt, Libya will not sign it unless Israel signs. Libya agrees completely with Egypt's position, starting from a concern to achieve peace and stability in the region on the one hand, and to protect Arab national security on the other. Israel's refusal to sign the treaty is aimed at weakening Arab capabilities. Therefore, there must be a collective Arab position with regard to refusing to sign the treaty indefinitely."

Marwan [Dawdwayn], head of the Jordanian delegation to the Refugees Committee in the multilateral negotiations and a former minister:

"I do not believe the Arab nations must refuse to sign the NPT for a definite or indefinite period. However, the issue in my estimation is that the Arab nations must notify the entire world that they want to sign. At the same time, pressure should be put on the international community to note that Israel is the one with the greatest need to sign. It alone refuses to sign."

Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the Jordanian Islamic Action Front Party's bloc of parliamentary deputies:

"If the Arab nations have respect for themselves and are responsible to their people, they will deem it necessary to support Egypt in rejecting signing the treaty until the government of the Israeli enemy signs."

Ghazi al-Sa'di, director general of the Galilee Office of Palestinian Studies and Research in Amman:

"I connect the Arab nations' signing of the treaty with Israel's signing. I approve of the Middle East being a nuclear weapons-free area. This was a previous demand of Israel's, but Israel has currently backed away from this idea."

Dr. 'Umar al-Khatib, the Palestinian Embassy's charge d'affaires in Amman:

"We do not have a nuclear weapon and, consequently, Israel must be disarmed. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon the Arab nations to reject signing the NPT for an indefinite period, unless Israel signs it. In our new world, there is no advantage to nuclear bombs, since the system of wars has ended. Israeli nuclear disarmament would inevitably stabilize the peace process."

Al-Sayyid 'Azmi al-Khawaja, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party:

"The Arab nations must not sign to renew the treaty unless Israel signs it, because the uneven balance of power in the region will continue, since Israel has 200 nuclear warheads."

Saudi Intellectuals

Dr. 'Adnan Ahmad al-Aswad, professor at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in al-Zahran:

"It is incumbent upon the Arab nations to reject signing to renew the NPT until Israel signs it, and until after Israel is completely stripped of its nuclear weapons. Arab experience with Israel is long and bitter. Israel never keeps a promise nor honors a commitment."

Dr. 'Uthman al-Rawwaf, political science professor at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh:

"The Arab nations' main goal at this stage must be to work to eliminate the destructive danger. Perhaps these countries' refusal to sign to renew the NPT will not lead to achieving the desired goal of eliminating Israeli nuclear power. It would be best for them to link their signing of the treaty to obtaining international—American, European, and Russian guarantees—under UN auspices, to force Israel to sign the treaty. We should also work for the gradual removal of weapons of mass destruction in the aftermath of the signing of final peace treaties in the region."

Dr. Salih al-Mani', professor of political science at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh:

"Asking the Arabs to sign a renewal of the NPT, which is nothing but a kind of one-sided disarmament, would expose Arab national security to the continuation of Israeli hegemony. The treaty will not give any protection, even if only theoretical, to the countries that have no nuclear weapons. If the major nuclear nations were to commit themselves to direct a nuclear strike against any nation that threatens or uses such a weapon against other defenseless countries, that would reduce the Arab nations' fear with regard to sacrificing their future national security as a courtesy to those countries.

"In the future, I do not see the solution as having any need for the military option, because the Arab nations will not be able—in the foreseeable term—to achieve any equality with Israel as to the balance of nuclear terror. These countries must be committed not to sign the renewal of the NPT and to work rapidly to shut down Israeli nuclear reactors. At that point, they should work for Israel's nuclear disarmament, especially since it will have no need for these arms, whenever it signs the comprehensive peace treaties. We have seen in the past how the De Klerk government in South Africa unilaterally disposed of its nuclear weapons in 1991 because it truly wanted peace with the African majority."

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Jarallah, professor of radiation physics in the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources:

"Israel's possession of the nuclear weapon is a fact recognized by the world. The Israeli nuclear arsenal, which ranges between 50 and 200 nuclear warheads, including weapons reinforced with fusion systems, has a capacity of not less than 10 times the production of the Hiroshima bomb. Therefore, the NPT ought not to have been signed originally, not to mention signing to renew it."

Dr. Tawfiq Ibn Ahmad al-Qasir, director general of the Office of Consultative Horizons and a specialist in nuclear armament:

"There is a strategic imbalance at the present time between the Arab nations and Israel because of Tel Aviv's possession of a nuclear deterrent. This means that the Arab world is defenseless against Israel, since the strategic cover that the former Soviet Union provided before its demise has been lost. Accordingly, the Arab nations must follow Egypt's example in refusing to sign the treaty's renewal if Israel continues to refuse to sign. If the Arab nations sign, it would place restrictions on their freedom to develop nuclear capabilities in the future to balance the Israeli deterrent. However, the Arab nations' refusal to sign does not mean that they will be free of any restrictions or strong pressures by the nuclear club's member nations to submit any nuclear program for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency as, for example, happened after Algeria obtained a nuclear reactor in 1991 from France to generate electricity."

Wafa' Nasr, vice chairman of the Arab-American Antidiscrimination Committee in Washington:

"I believe that the Arab nations must not sign the treaty renewal if Israel refuses to sign. Why is it incumbent upon the Arab community to be restricted by international laws, while Israel violates them without any justification? Peace is welcome, but peace must be based on equality, or the result will be continued Israeli supremacy and Arab subjugation over the long haul."

Critical Period

Dr. Bisharah Bahbah, associate director of the Middle East Institute, Harvard University, and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the disarmament negotiations:

"Before the Arab nations sign, Israel must commit itself to signing the NPT within a specific period of time. Therefore, I agree with the Egyptian position. I think that this is a critical period, because the Arab nations can have a political impact on the matter of Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. I hope that the Arab nations will benefit from this opportunity."

Dr. Michael Sulayman, professor of political science at Kansas State University and currently visiting professor in the Department of Higher Studies, Princeton University:

"I think that the Arab nations should not sign to renew the treaty and should insist that Israel signs it before them or with them. At the least, the Arab states should insist on Israel admitting to its nuclear capabilities and agreeing to begin negotiations to make the Middle East an arms-free zone."

Sa'd Murtida, first Egyptian ambassador to Israel (1980-86), currently located in Washington:

"We must remember that Israel does not ask Egypt or any other Arab nation to sign the treaty's renewal. It is the Arab nations' right to refuse to sign as a political stand. This position will cause America, world public opinion, and, perhaps, Israeli public opinion to endorse it, so that Israel will be shown as the one that deviates from the law. My personal view is that the Arabs have the right not to sign without any justification, so long as Israel rejects signing. Moreover, Israel will not sign (and will maintain more than 200 nuclear bombs) whether or not the Arabs sign."

Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the National Association of Arab-Americans in Washington:

"We hope that the Arab nations will sign, even if Israel refuses to sign. Regardless of whether or not the Arab nations sign, it is clear that they (and especially Egypt) have conducted a successful media campaign in revealing Israel's refusal to commit itself to international agreements, and in revealing the contradiction of the American Government's position. That is that the United States wants the Arabs to sign, but, on behalf of Israel, it searches for excuses and justifications for Israel's not signing."

Dr. Mustafa 'Alawi, visiting professor at the Peace Institute in Washington and professor of political science at Cairo University:

"The best action is a unified Arab position not to sign, so as to create a moral, political stand. This will not be a legal decision, because the decision of the majority will be imposed on the minority. However, the object is to commit to a collective position in order to affirm the power of Arab logic. This is a rational and sound position that Israel must not ignore."

Nasserist Leaves Paper for Human Rights Post

95LD0075B Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 1

[Editorial by Muhammad Fa'iq]

[FBIS Translated Text] A whole year has gone by since the formation of the board of directors of the al-'Arabi organization, composed of a group of Nasserist leaders, including prominent politicians, former ambassadors, university professors, and prominent journalists and administrators. The task of this board was to undertake the establishment of the newspaper AL-'ARABI and thereby provide the newspaper — and all other publications that the party would decide to establish — with all of the necessary human and technical resources for it to be published with a high level of competence, to provide it with financial equilibrium in order to guarantee that it continue to exist as a totally independent publication, and to have the newspaper — which expresses the opinions of the Nasserist Democratic Arab Party — be the organ of all Nasserists and nationalist and progressive forces in the Arab world, reflecting the pan-Arab dimension in our Arab homeland.

I do not claim that we have achieved all of these aims. However, I can say that we have laid the foundation that guarantees that they will be achieved. This is testified to by the continual increase in its distribution, the expansion of its circle of readers, which has come to include [people in] most of the areas of the Arab world, and the spirit of enthusiasm, seriousness, and self-denial that has characterized the staff of AL-'ARABI, including the editors and all the employees.

It has been my honor to serve as chairman of this board and to belong to the staff of AL-'ARABI, and this is something that I am very proud of. However, I am saying good-bye to our readers and my colleagues at the newspaper since I am leaving my position at the end of this month because, when I accepted this position, I specified that I would serve in it only till the end of this month. The reason for this is that I have recently withdrawn [actually the word used is "jammadtu," meaning "frozen"] my membership from all positions of leadership in the party in accordance with a wish that I have long had, and I have been waiting for an appropriate moment to make an announcement concerning this. I wish to give more time to another mission—that of human rights. I discharge the basic responsibilities of the Arab Human Rights Organization as its secretary general, spokesman, and representative when dealing with other bodies. It is a position that requires that a great deal of effort be made in order that there not be any conflict between one's work for the sake of human rights and one's work in a political party.

It is possible to separate functions and combine the two responsibilities, and this is something that I have totally adhered to and been careful to do so far. But I do not want to leave any room for doubt to arise in anyone's mind as a result of an attempt to combine these two responsibilities.

For this reason I have felt that now is the time to announce what I have decided upon, particularly since this is an appropriate time after the party has been able to overcome the organizational problems that it faced during its formative period and has become able to start functioning. I have also been encouraged by the understanding shown by my colleagues in the party leadership — including the secretary general, Diya'-al-Din Dawud — concerning the reasons that have impelled me to do what I am doing.

As I leave my post as chairman of the board of the newspaper AL-'ARABI, I am confident that, among the Nasserist leaders, there is someone who can shoulder the responsibilities of this job more effectively and can give these responsibilities more time. Furthermore, change as such is necessary in order to have the wheel of progress keep moving.

I hope that our readers will understand these circumstances, and let us together look forward to seeing new and successful gains be achieved by AL-'ARABI.

Sudan

Radio Comments on Eritrean, U.S. 'Conspiracy'

EA2006192795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Commentary by al-Zubayr 'Uthman Ahmad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has described the conspiracy being hatched by United States and Eritrea of bringing together the remnants of the opposition and the rebels, as a futile attempt to undermine the country's security and stability.

Observers view the conspiracy led by Isaias Afwerki as one that serves U.S. interests, which seeks to isolate the region, and which considers Sudan and its civilized orientation as a stumbling block to the realization of these interests. This radio commentary on the subject is prepared and read by colleague al-Zubayr Uthman Ahmad:

[Al-Zubayr] the futile plot being hatched by Eritrea with the supervision of United States against Sudan and its civilized orientation, its territorial integrity, and the security of its citizens, will only increase Sudan's commitment to support its citizen's principles, and safeguard their dignity.

This conspiracy's size and objectives are as clear as daylight. It seeks to serve the interests of the United States, which has shown its enmity toward Islam and Sudan's orientation. The United States has repeatedly and persistently tried to bring down the National Salvation Revolution so that it can have freedom of action in the region and Sudan. [passage omitted]

Afwerki has become a cat's paw serving U.S. interests at a paltry price. He has sold himself for a few dirhams. After his visit to Israel he announced that he would sell Eritrea to the devil in order to retain power, and to continue to rule Eritreans, despite the fact that this conduct goes against the orientation of the helpless Eritrean people. Afwerki is a dictator led by international Zionism, and used by imperialism to realize its ambitions, and to implement its goals. [passage omitted]

He has enough internal problems, and he does not have enough to feed his people. His refusal to accept hundreds of refugees after the end of war and the attainment of independence in his country is proof of this. [passage omitted]

Minister Taha Views Internal, Regional Politics

95AF0084A Paris AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
21 Apr 95 pp 34-35

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given: "Charging Sudan With Terrorism Is Part of Distortion Campaign; We Are Striving To Normalize Our Relations With Egypt and the Neighborhood"—first two paragraphs are AL-HAWADITH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sudanese effort to normalize relations with Egypt has become evident since 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, the number-two man in the National Islamic Front (NIF) and one of the so-called hawks in Sudan's power equation, came to the foreign ministry. Taha thus has contradicted all the predictions and analyses that linked his assumption of the foreign ministry to future crises with many Arab states, including Egypt. Minister Taha came to Cairo to participate in the Arab League's 50th anniversary celebration and in the Egyptian-hosted African foreign ministers' meeting. He also held a lengthy meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and apparently emerged with positive results concerning problems pending between the two countries.

AL-HAWADITH met Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha and interviewed him about domestic talk about diminishing possibilities for Sudanese national reconciliation and foreign talk about charges against the Sudan of supporting terrorism.

[AL-HAWADITH] Your assumption of the foreign ministry was an important sign of the NIF's effort to tighten control over the important strongholds of governance in the Sudan. What is your comment?

[Taha] Viewing Sudanese internal politics in the context of what prevailed in 1989 involves simplifying the picture and freezing the frame. Sudan has entered into broad developments since the national salvation revolution. Many people's convictions have changed. Salvation's political program was able to attract many elements who were classified as being on the lists of the former parties. This led to the creation of a different makeup at the heart of the Sudanese political scene. To deal with it by applying the old background would be a simplification damaging to a correct understanding of the situation in Sudan. Therefore, the roles that any individual in the Salvation Front plays cannot be reckoned only on the basis of previous affiliation, as demonstrated by the fact that more than 60 percent of those who held deputies' seats in the Constitutive Assembly or pre-1989 parliament now form part of this political section. Therefore, the view of any mandate to take charge of positions is governed by the needs of the period and the fitness of each personality in terms of his individual ability to express this period. No collective or party movement has anything to do with controlling this or that position. On the other hand, I was minister of social planning about two years ago, and the internal front in the perspective of international politics was not remote from events on the foreign scene. Indeed, many think that focusing and building the internal front in any country is a real prerequisite for the success of any effective foreign policy for the country. Thus, there is no question of loss or gain for any side.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you have an explanation for the high profile of national reconciliation people in the Sudan and the meetings between high officials and opposition leaders, most recently the meeting of Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi? Then suddenly such talk ended. Have talks between the government and the opposition failed?

[Taha] National Assembly head Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah's meeting with some figures on the political scene, particularly Sadiq al-Mahdi, is no isolated event. It comes in the context of many meetings that began as early as the first weeks of the national salvation revolution. The purpose of all these talks and meetings is to increase the dose of confidence available for the project that the state proposes, in spite of the challenges the state faces, such as the ongoing war in the south and the economic difficulties. This project is taking shape on a background accustomed to a certain type of political practice that was embodied in a multiparty system that proved a failure in confronting these challenges. Thus, the intention of such meetings by the government is to underscore the government's point of view and explain the positive points that such a program produces. On the other hand, some of these figures embark on such talks with their own understanding, seeing them as a kind of admission of weakness in the face of challenges and as representing a kind of return to the past. They represent a dream for some of them. So the purpose of these often energetic steps that have successfully attracted many people who were in top leadership positions at the political bureau level of these parties—some were ministers—is to attract these elements into the domain of the new political situation. These attempts are made to attract these leadership elements to the convictions that others have reached. So it is not strange on the part of the government for such meetings to take place, nor is it strange for them not to reach definitive results, for dialogue is a lengthy matter, as you know. The principle of achieving consensus on the proposed political program is a principle that has been put forward by National Salvation, which holds to it even with those who take up arms.

[AL-HAWADITH] How will you deal with the recent alliances, some of which have assumed a military character, between Garang's group and parties in the north trying to move operations from the south to the cities?

[Taha] As for the historical facts, these alliances and threats to carry out military operations and move them into the north took place after the beginning of these political contacts. They confirm the strength of the regime's arguments that the party and political structure in its previous form could not present a convincing program for the domestic front, let alone the foreign front. The threat to use violence and the formation of alliances between various contradictory political currents reduce the credibility of these currents. These two things prove to public opinion that there is a lack of method and that it is all a matter of dreams of returning to power at the personal level. The government therefore is becoming increasingly convinced of the need to proceed with the proposed program, which is based on making citizens themselves partners in government and enabling them to direct their future by themselves. The success of such a program will make the argument that the state fears such pronouncements or alliances a matter that contradicts reality.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has the Salvation initiative reached a dead end, given the crises even between Sudan and parties within the organization?

[Taha] Salvation's initiative is one mediation link to promote the peace process in the south and bring points of view in Sudan closer together. It must be seen as a dynamic process. It is not a rigid process to be viewed as fragmented. It was preceded by events in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja 1, and Abuja 2. One cannot say that these rounds failed. Although they did not produce a comprehensive, final solution, they aided the process of becoming acquainted with viewpoints, sorting out subjects, and determining how to deal with them, even while disagreement remained over ordering priorities or over the view of some of the solutions to problems reached through these rounds. What happened in Salvation's initiative falls within the framework of this analysis. In other words, the stage at which the initiative stopped—the stage of announcing principles— helped to nourish domestically the peace program that is now gaining ground on many sides in the Sudan, especially in areas where the war has ended and where normal life has returned. Furthermore, the Salvation initiative is still the closest link practically and objectively, because the countries of the neighborhood that form the Salvation group are closest to understanding the nature of the problem. Therefore, the existence of problems with some of these states does not mean that the initiative has died. It is facing difficulties, but they can be overcome.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about Sudan's effort to overcome the problems of its relations with the states of the neighborhood?

[Taha] We have begun an energetic positive movement in this direction. During my brief tenure at the foreign ministry, we have been able to carry on direct and summit-level contacts with many of the leaders of these countries in connection with the recent Copenhagen summit. I think the yield from these contacts will be positive.

[AL-HAWADITH] Don't you think that the special statements in which John Garang tried to correct mistaken notions about his self-determination demand as being a kind of secession on the whole are positive statements on which one can build?

[Taha] John Garang keeps changing his political positions. The cause of separating the south from the north finds no support on the southern political scene, and of course none in the north. In particular, it finds no support in Garang's own Dinka tribal group, one of the south's largest tribes, which lives completely and exclusively in the south without any extensions outside the borders of Sudan. The general orientation of the members of the tribe is toward unity and against secession. Garang's return to talking about Sudan's unity is therefore really a response to pressures from the tribe and the problems the tribe faces. Thus, one can be sure that the slogan of secession and self-determination was merely a maneuver forming an agenda for others who, whatever their disagreements with the regime existing in Khartoum, included among themselves none of the sectors of Sudanese public opinion.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the charges leveled against Sudan of supporting terrorism—not in the midst of Africa, but in many regions of the world?

[Taha] Accusing Sudan of terrorism is one of many things. It is a part of an organized campaign to distort Sudan's image, one of the plots carried out against many Arab countries. It is not strange for such charges to be leveled to distort Sudan's image and erect a psychological barrier between Sudan and the political and popular forces and groups that might support Sudan's just cause. The second point is that these campaigns, despite their frequency and persistence, have produced not one proof or objective support for their claims. They rely on the psychological theory of "lie, lie, until people believe you." Through its contacts with the North African Arab states and other countries, Sudan has been able to correct many of these false ideas. We are confident that we are hiding nothing. I stated to my brother foreign ministers of a number of Arab states that Sudan will never be a ground for attacking any Arab country.

[AL-HAWADITH] With which Arab ministers were these talks held?

[Taha] I had an opportunity to contact the ministers participating in the activities of the Arab League, including Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Qatar, Libya, and Iraq.

[AL-HAWADITH] Have not the Americans located a terrorist training camp north of Khartoum?

[Taha] It is nothing but a worthless claim. Such camps do not exist. We have always proclaimed our readiness to receive any unbiased investigator or observer to determine the truth of these claims. If Washington has high-tech devices and receivers, why can't it present a single practical proof of the existence of these camps?

[AL-HAWADITH] What is your comment on the U.S. point of view that the situation in Sudan is bad and comparable to the situation in Rwanda?

[Taha] Ridiculous! How can one compare conditions in Sudan with those in Rwanda? At the same time, they say that Sudan constitutes a danger and threat to U.S. interests in the region, which in itself reveals the contradictoriness of this logic.

[AL-HAWADITH] Some parties have sensed a desire on the part of Sudan and Egypt to overcome the negative aspects of the recent past and strengthen points of agreement. Is this correct?

[Taha] A priority issue that I am trying to deal with in my supervision of the foreign ministry is the effort to normalize and clear the atmosphere with the countries with which we have important strategic interests, especially Egypt. I think that if one objectively analyzes pending issues in relations between the two countries, these issues will not rise to the level of a break or confrontation, despite our reservations about some of the behavior that has taken place and some details. Certainly, what unites Sudan and Egypt is greater than what separates them. We intend to treat Egyptian-Sudanese relations in a spirit of positiveness, readiness for dialogue, and an alert awareness of the nature of events around us on the regional and international level that moves us to be in a single trench, rather than in two contrary lines.

[AL-HAWADITH] Why was there not a positive response to Egypt's decision to exclude Halayib from Egyptian election districts? Instead, it was included on the list of Sudanese districts.

[Taha] The issue has been beset with a certain confusion. The Egyptian decision was welcomed by all circles in Khartoum and was considered a positive sign. We still consider it such. The Sudanese decision did not coincide in time with the Egyptian position. It was an old decision in force since 1954, since the first elections were held in the self-rule period before independence. It was a routine bureaucratic measure. There has been no attempt to escalate conditions or record a stand on this issue relative to the Egyptian position. We think the entire issue can be handled through objective dialogue. In that way we can defuse any matters that might lead to escalation and impede dialogue.

[AL-HAWADITH] Don't you think that the new round of the Islamic nationalism conference is raising the fears of many of the region's states, especially because the conference is hosting many extremist leaders who are wanted even in their own countries?

[Taha] The conference is a manifestation of the healthy popular movement taking place in the world. I think that we in the Arab countries need to do some self-examination about this. It is better for us and our peoples that a movement of political communication take place among us—better for us and our peoples, with all their sectors and difference of opinion. The real affliction is the interruption of the language of dialogue and the use of the language of violence as an alternative. We in Sudan on the official level believe in not interfering in others' affairs. We allow no one to use Khartoum as an arena for harming his country by any actions or to form a case of opposition outside the recognized zone. We think we need to unite ranks, not scatter them. We believe in the need to expand the area of political dialogue. We wonder whether such conferences would elicit such reactions as we now see and observe if they were held in another of the world's countries. It is good for us that such meetings be held within the large household and that we speak frankly to each other.

We should discuss our problems publicly, with all of us present, without any secret agreements.

Bahrain

PRC Vice Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Meets Prime Minister on Cooperation

JN2006150595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 20 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, this morning received PRC Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei and his delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The prime minister welcomed the Chinese official and his delegation and discussed with him a number of issues of joint interest in addition to bilateral friendly relations and ways of activating joint cooperation in various fields.

The Chinese official expressed his pleasure and that of the accompanying delegation at visiting the State of Bahrain, and said the visit is a chance to meet with ranking officials in this friendly country. He expressed pride in the eagerness of the two countries to continue developing spheres of cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples. He hailed the Bahraini foreign policy and its prominent role in regional and international forums, which reflects the wisdom and sound vision of its leadership. [passage omitted]

Meets Foreign Minister on Economic Ties

JN2006192695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Jun (WAKH) — Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has met with PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei, who is currently visiting Manama.

They discussed Bahraini-Chinese ties and stressed the need to improve these ties in various fields, particularly the commercial and economic fields, following the signing of an agreement for economic, commercial, and technical cooperation in Beijing in July 1990 by the foreign ministers of the two states.

The two officials also discussed a host of regional and international political issues, particularly the situation in the Gulf area, the Middle East peace process, and developments in South Asia.

Kuwait

National Assembly Passes Bill on Free Trade Zones

LD2006225295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Jun (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti National Assembly today approved a number of bills submitted by the government and suspended, for the fourth time, a bill concerning the amendment of some provisions of the Kuwaiti nationality law.

The assembly, which was chaired by Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the National Assembly, approved a bill stipulating the opening of additional budget allocations for a number of government ministries and administrations for the 1994-1995 financial year.

The law stipulates the withdrawal of 233 million Kuwaiti dinars from the state's general reserves to meet the additional expenditures of a number of ministries such as the Ministries of Defense, Electricity, Water, and Public Works. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdan has stressed that the government is trying to squeeze its expenditures as much as possible, referring to several successes in meeting the budget deficit. He denied that the sums required would be drawn from the reserves of future generations, stressing that the government has managed to realize adequate financial savings to cover these sums.

The National Assembly unanimously passed a bill aimed at setting up free trade zones in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The government said that the setting up of free zones would help to attract capital, halt its flight, and restore confidence in Kuwait's political and economic position at the local and international level.

All goods imported into the free areas or exported from them will be exempt from taxes and customs duties, as will the projects set up in them and the profits they make from carrying out their activities in these zones. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the National Assembly approved in its first deliberations a bill submitted by the government in connection with the agreement between Kuwait and the Russian Federation on encouraging and protecting mutual investments in the two countries. [passage omitted]

At another level, the National Assembly postponed for the fourth consecutive time a law promulgated by decree in connection with modifications to some rulings on the Kuwaiti citizenship bill. [passage omitted]

Economic Agreement With Italy To Advance Ties

LD2006224395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
2108 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Jun (KUNA) — Kuwait and Italy today signed a memorandum of understanding which constitutes a practical framework for the advancement of relations of joint cooperation in economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

The memorandum was signed for the Kuwaiti side by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, while it was signed for the Italian side by Emanuele Scammacca del Murgo, under secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

For his part, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary said that the memorandum of understanding, which was the result of the first meeting of the Kuwaiti-Italian Joint Commission, "is a move toward opening wider horizons for Kuwaiti diplomacy in building contacts with nontraditional states." [passage omitted]

In this regard, he observed that there are a number of Italian companies operating here that wish to expand their commercial presence "bearing in mind that Italy holds fourth place among all states in the world as far as commercial dealings with Kuwait are concerned." [passage omitted]

Parliamentarian Discusses Constitutional Process

95LH0176A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 29 May 95 p 2

["Text" of interview with Dr. Isma'il al-Shatti, chairman of the Parliamentary Financial and Economic Committee, by Faris al-Salman in Kuwait; date not given — first three paragraphs are AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee in the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Deputy Isma'il al-Shatti, emphasized that the political blocs in the National Assembly have not agreed to clear the air between them. "No one in the assembly is capable of achieving this," he stated.

He added, "There is an obstacle that is keeping the political blocs from meeting to coordinate among themselves." Commenting on the draft state budget, he said, "If the government cannot correct the deficit, it should resign." He warned that all of Kuwait's oil revenues and investments will be needed to service the country's debt. He said that "if students in the university and applied institutes enter the ranks of the employed, the government will not be able to pay salaries." As to whether the imposition of fees and taxes is the best solution, he said, "The citizen must receive a minimum level of services. Charges for services above this level [should] begin to increase." He stressed that "there is no relationship" between the Muslim Brotherhood organization and the Constitutional Movement that he represents in the National Assembly. He qualified this by adding that "a common denominator in our thinking does however exist," but went on to say that "the Muslim Brothers are regionalists [iqlimiyin] in many decisions but forbid others to be regionalists [qutriyin]." Regarding the interpellation of the Education and Higher Education Minister, Dr. Ahmad al-Ruba'i, regarding his ministry's final accounts, al-Shatti stated, "I have no doubt regarding al-Ruba'i's fiscal responsibility. The final statements...discussed in the assembly involved ordinary mistakes, which all of the ministries make." Al-Shatti supports the vote of no confidence in Minister al-Ruba'i not because of the final accounts issue, but because of "al-Ruba'i's way of dealing with the deputies."

The following is the text of the interview:

[Salman] A committee chairman in the assembly is threatening to resign from the assembly. Another deputy has submitted his resignation from the chairmanship of another committee, and deputies of another committee have submitted a collective resignation. Do you believe that this is the fruit of the "mutual understanding" between the various currents in the assembly?

[Al-Shatti] Problems do indeed exist in the assembly. However, the indicators that you mentioned have no bearing on these problems. The agricultural committee is a temporary committee. The number of deputies in the assembly is much smaller than the number required to be on standing and temporary committees. If we were to organize these committees as we ought to, a deputy would have to serve on five or six committees, which is not feasible. Hence, what you said is unrelated to the problem occurring in the assembly.

[Salman] What then is the problem?

[Al-Shatti] A lack of priorities. Each group has its own priorities that differ from those of other groups. The political blocs have not agreed between themselves. The discussion sometimes turns into a fray.

[Salman] What level of leadership do you have in mind to reconcile the parties?

[Al-Shatti] I am speaking in general. Sometimes, people rally around the prime minister. At other times, they rally around someone outside the premiership.

[Salman] Could you clarify what you mean?

[Al-Shatti] The assembly lacks a person who can bring together mutually incompatible, competing, or clashing parties to rally around him. Such a person would presumably undertake initiatives to clear the air. Unfortunately, there is no such person in the National Assembly.

[Salman] The disagreement in the assembly may hinge on ideological differences between currents, not individuals. If this is the case, an individual such as the one that you mentioned would be unable to devise a formula to clear the air.

[Al-Shatti] That is an incorrect notion. For example, I spoke with a number of parties regarding elections for National Assembly committees, so that we could come together and agree on these elections. These efforts concerned coordination, not ideologies. I spoke with the prime minister in the last and current sessions. I have spoken with a representative of the political blocs and with Jasim al-Saqr. However, unfortunately, there is an obstacle that is keeping the political blocs from meeting to coordinate among themselves. Regarding positions, issues that are raised, and the ordering of priorities—ordinary people can compel political powers to unify their position regarding a specific issue. Ordinary people can pressure political powers to adopt a specific position and to set forth their position in the National Assembly in a unified manner.

Interpellation of al-Ruba'i

[Salman] Do you believe that the interpellation of the Education and Higher Education Minister, Dr. Ahmad al-Ruba'i, has expedited action in the assembly, because the currents in the assembly have better defined their solidarity and cohesion?

[Al-Shatti] The al-Ruba'i affair illuminated the assembly again after a year of darkness. An interpellation is, in itself, a lofty political event, regardless of whether its target is Minister al-Ruba'i or someone else. The public filled the chamber, not so much because Minister al-Ruba'i was the target, but because the interpellation is a nontraditional form for Kuwaiti democracy.

[Salman] It is noteworthy that the deputies who defined their positions on the interpellation based themselves more on the currents' positions than on individual positions.

[Al-Shatti] That is incorrect. Deputies who are unaffiliated with any current — including deputies Ahmad al-Shari'an, Hadi al-Huwaylah, and Fahd al-Lami' — defined their positions.

[Salman] Were they not persuaded by the justifications for supporting a vote of no confidence?

[Al-Shatti] I believe that the al-Ruba'i affair concerns his dealings with parliament, not the final accounts. I have no doubt regarding al-Ruba'i's fiscal responsibility. The final statements discussed in the assembly involved ordinary mistakes, which all of the ministries make. Rather, Minister al-Ruba'i is to be faulted for his overconfidence, for thinking himself above reproach, and, occasionally, for his contempt for proposals put forth by others. Most of those who supported a vote of no confidence in al-Ruba'i did so because of his way of dealing with the deputies.

[Salman] It has been noted that your political rhetoric has recently "become independent" of that of the Constitutional Movement. Is this an indication of the possibility that you may run as an independent in the 1996 elections?

[Al-Shatti] This question is premature. I would prefer to hold off for now in responding to it.

[Salman] Do you think that the fact that you (you and al-Ruba'i) are in the same electoral district will influence you in the upcoming elections?

[Al-Shatti] I have been involved in politics since my earliest days. I always follow my convictions regardless of the consequences. Perhaps I have lost much as a result, but I cannot lose myself. I am not concerned if my adherence to my convictions loses me several votes. I believe that a deputy who is true to himself and respects his convictions will gain many votes.

Muslim Brotherhood [MB]

[Salman] What is the extent of the influence of the MB movement on the deputies of the Constitutional Movement?

[Al-Shatti] If only political analysts and observers would focus on the positions of liberal and progressive forces as much as they focus on the MB's positions. The MB has no doubt erred. I have made harsh remarks regarding them, and they deserve more than that for their position. However, they apologized and attempted to correct their position at the earliest opportunity, whereas the other parties still insist on their position, have not changed it, and have not offered an apology. The media is shedding light on the MB's position, but not on the other parties' positions.

[Salman] Why?

[Al-Shatti] Because the Islamic current is the strongest force in the political arena, whereas the progressive current is the weakest. The media is covering the strongest and ignoring the weakest.

[Salman] How were "your relations" before the invasion?

[Al-Shatti] It was an organizational relationship. Currently, there is no relationship at all.

[Salman] Do you mean that there is no relation or link between you and the MB regarding decisions and/or ideology?

[Al-Shatti] There is no contact regarding decisions. Regarding ideology, there is a common denominator between all of the Islamic currents. We cannot abandon many Islamic ideas.

There may be a difference in political positions. The MB's positions in Egypt are influenced by the welfare of the Egyptian people, because the MB in Egypt is concerned for the Egyptian people's welfare. It is our right to be concerned with the Kuwaiti people's welfare in any political position that we adopt. The Muslim Brothers are regionalists [iqlimiyin] regarding many decisions, but they forbid others from being regionalists [qutriyin] regarding some decisions. Thus, in some of our political positions, we are concerned with Kuwait's interests primarily and do not pay attention to their statements.

[Salman] Do you have contacts with them?

[Al-Shatti] Yes, contacts involving dialogue and discussions have occurred. However, I have not attended any official meeting outside Kuwait, including the Karachi meeting held during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, which I criticized.

Editorial: Wisdom Key To Avoiding Conflict in Gulf

95LH0166A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 7 May 95 p 25

[Editorial by Dr. Shafiq Nazim al-Ghabra: "Difficulty of International Consensus on Iranian Issue and Dangers of Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Difficulty has emerged these days in building international consensus on the Iranian issue. Numerous countries have responded coolly to the U.S. declaration [on boycotting Iran], and it has become obvious that Germany, France, Europe, Turkey, Russia, and other countries have not rushed to welcome the U.S. position on sanctions against Iran. Inversely, many countries have considered the U.S. action an independent action that is not binding to them. It is evident that there are numerous causes embedded in the crux of the international structure that contribute to this tepidity toward consensus. The most significant of these causes is the fact that Iran has done nothing to threaten Gulf security as Iraq did in the past. This is why the endeavors to isolate Iran will continue to be difficult and intricate and why a big U.S. effort, coupled with big Iranian mistakes, will be required.

It is normal that at a time when a number of countries, led by Russia, France, and Turkey, try to lift the sanctions against Iraq, these countries would not be anxious to launch new sanctions against Iran. Rather, most countries favor avoiding a confrontation with Iran and encouraging it to follow the path of moderation through positive economic and trade relations. In the same vein, European countries consider themselves trade countries in search of contracts wherever they can find them and of gain wherever it is available. The Iranian market is a big market that is hard to ignore. It is similar to the Iraqi market toward which numerous European companies are rushing for contracts and investment.

The latest development, namely the imposition of U.S. sanctions against Iran, reaffirms that the United States, which is the biggest and most important power in today's civilization, is having real difficulty influencing its allies in the world. This is a result of disappearance of the Soviet threat that worried Europe day and night and made it rely totally on the U.S. security umbrella. This is why one can say that, despite the enormous international power of the United States, the breakdown of the international situation and, consequently, its transformation into a state of anarchy, plus disappearance of some of the well-known threats posed by the Soviet Union, make Europe and some Asian countries less sensitive to direct U.S. demands. Ultimately, this means that the United States will be compelled to make greater efforts to persuade, influence, and bring about change.

On the other hand, one can say that, despite Europe's — fundamentally Germany's, Italy's, Britain's, and France's — efforts and Japan's efforts to maintain trade with Iran, it is wrong for Iran to misread these indicators in a way that makes it disregard the U.S. pressure or consider it pressure born dead. Inversely, the U.S. position is serious, and it may lead with time to a change in the position of numerous countries. This is why we are inclined to assert that the Iranian position will be faced with real pressures in the coming phase. Japan has suspended temporarily a loan it had been planning to advance to Iran. Moreover, the U.S. pressure on Russia will bear fruit, at least in reducing the volume and quality of the Russian-Iranian deal. It is evident that, during his visit to Russia this week, President Clinton will use everything at his disposal to influence Yeltsin. Because there are numerous U.S.-Russian interests, we do not find it unlikely that a compromise will be reached, especially since Clinton will take with him to Russia experts on the Iranian nuclear position, maps, and other materials.

But what makes the Iranian position more complex is that today's Iran is faced with numerous domestic challenges. The first five-year plan has failed, and the second one may fail. Iran is talking about selling numerous state-owned properties and establishments to the private sector. But there is no guarantee that this will succeed. Even though a new revolutionary regime was established in Iran in 1979, this regime has been having great difficulty maintaining its momentum and strength. Between external political pressure and difficult domestic conditions, Iran will be facing challenges that cannot be belittled in the coming phase. Iran's population is more than 70 million, more than one-quarter of whom are below the age of 25. Inflation in the country has exceeded 150 percent in recent months, and unemployment has risen to more than 30 percent. Average annual per capita income has dropped from $2,500 in the shah's days to $1,200 currently. It is extremely important to watch these factors in this phase and until the 1997 elections in Iran.

What remains for us to say is that external U.S. pressure will escalate unless Iran develops a solution to the nuclear reactor issue, and other issues, with the international parties and with the United States. An examination of statements emanating from the U.S. Administration confirms that this administration is serious on this issue and that it is convinced that Iran seeks to mobilize everything it can to implement its nuclear program. On the other hand, Iran can pacify the situation, especially since it has become evident that its German and other economic partners are somewhat sympathetic. Therefore, if Iran plays its cards well, it may succeed to make some propaganda and political gains that alleviate its international isolation. This requires Iran to exert active efforts to assert that it is a balanced international player and a force for moderation in today's world. But what we fear is that haste and the rhetoric of defiance and of counterescalation will prevail in Iran, coupled with the current economic crisis. This could lead to a confrontation with uncalculated preludes and consequences. If this happens, Iran, and the Gulf states along with it, will lose a great degree of security and stability. This is a cautious and delicate phase that requires a great degree of wisdom in order to ensure that no new conflict is launched in the Gulf region. Rather, the phase requires Gulf moves at all levels to ensure that the conflict and the disagreement do not extend beyond a bearable scope.

Qatar

Heir Apparent Receives Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister

JN2006195295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1410 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 20 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, received here today Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, who is currently visiting Doha as part of a regional tour.

The Qatari News Agency reported that the Yemeni official briefed the Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent on the outcome of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's recent visit to Saudi Arabia following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries.

The agency said His Highness Shaykh Hamad welcomed the agreement and the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Saudi Arabia and Yemen which will serve their mutual interests and common objectives. They also discussed Arab issues in general and ties between Qatar and Yemen and underlined the desire to promote and improve these ties in various fields.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister on Iraq, Peace Process, Bosnia

NC1906113595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1020 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, 19 Jun (MENA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has praised the close ties between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, saying their personal relationship has benefited relations between the two countries in various spheres.

In an interview with MENA's Ankara correspondent, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said meetings between Mubarak and Fahd are continuing for the two countries' benefit.

Commenting on the issue of clearing Arab differences, al-Faysal said Saudi Arabia favors clearing Arab disputes but has conditions for doing this, notably that past errors must not be overlooked; that way they might not be repeated. He added that the conditions of Arab legitimacy as illustrated by the Arab League Charter, and international legality, as demonstrated by the UN Charter, must be met.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal remarked that no Arab rejects Arab reconciliation but this must be based on strong foundations that avoid past errors.

He said Iraq must fully implement UN Security Council resolutions because this is the only way to surmount the catastrophe caused by its occupation of Kuwait. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal noted that Iraq still procrastinates over implementing these resolutions.

He remarked that Saudi Arabia is satisfied with the recent positive developments on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, because there is no alternative to peace in the Middle East. He declared that the problem does not lie in concluding peace agreements among the concerned parties, but in these agreements not being implemented, as illustrated by Israel's procrastination over implementing the Oslo Agreement provisions with the Palestinians. He said such procrastination is an obstacle to a comprehensive and just Middle East peace.

The Saudi minister noted that his country wants to see progress on the Lebanese negotiating track, just like the other tracks, because without such progress it will be difficult to attain regional peace.

Concerning the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Saudi foreign minister said the Kingdom backs recent efforts to increase UN capabilities in Bosnia, because the Bosnian dispute cannot be solved unless there is a military balance between the Serbs and the Muslims.

He added: If the UN efforts fail, then the arms embargo on the Bosnians must be lifted so that they can defend themselves.

He said that Saudi Arabia, a member of the Islamic contact group, will seek to convene extraordinary meetings of the UN General Assembly and Security Council to solve this problem. He noted that enough time has been wasted without solving this issue, which causes great anxiety to the Saudi Government.

Regarding Saudi-Yemeni relations, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal noted that joint committees from the two countries have begun their work, and the Kingdom hopes they will complete it on schedule. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia feels that if the intention is good no problem is too difficult to solve.

He told MENA that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's recent visit to Saudi Arabia boosted fraternal bilateral ties.

He declared that the Kingdom is sincere in its promises and will not delay in implementing the agreements it reaches with Yemen so that bilateral relations can return to normal.

Commenting on the results of his talks with Turkish officials in Ankara, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said he is satisfied with his visit to Turkey, which will enhance bilateral relations, particularly as the volume of trade between them is very large. He added that his talks with Turkish officials dealt with conditions in the Balkans and the Central Asian republics, noting the similarity of Saudi and Turkish views on these issues. He said that conditions in the Central Asian republics are the focus of Saudi attention and that Saudi Arabia is coordinating with Turkey on this issue.

CDLR Communique Discusses Government Issues

MS2006123095 London CDLR Monitor in English 26 May 95

[Communique No. 49 of the Committee for Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by fax 16 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]**Your Right To Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part One:**

A sound judgement can only be reached after two points have been expertly covered. These two points, stated very briefly are:- (a) a full understanding of the case and the comprehension of Allah's verdict in that situation. Ibn-al-Qayyim said, "A Mufti or a ruler cannot give a decision (fatwa) except after the study of two areas of information. One of them is the understanding and full awareness of the reality of the situation over which the fatwa is to be implemented; the other is the understanding of the duty in that particular situation, which means understanding the verdict of Allah, as deduced from His Book or mentioned by His Prophets in a parallel case. then, and only then, can the verdict be announced and applied to the case in question" (Fatwa).

When Ibn Taymiyyah was asked about Allah's judgement regarding the Tartars, he explained that the true and appropriate verdict is based on two fundamental pillars; the knowledge of the Tartars status, and then the recognition of Allah's verdicts in such situations. The same stand was also related by other prominent scholars.

We believe that the reluctance of some scholars and academics to issue a lawful pronouncement on the regime was due to their lack of understanding of the first pre-requisite of making such a fatwa (the realisation and awareness of the present actuality), especially after the deceit of the regime and the falsification of the fact by which it had managed to project an acceptable image. Our role, therefore, mainly concentrated on exposing the false image brought about by deceit and corruption and enlightening those scholars and students who had not seen through it. The exposure of hypocrites has been unanimously agreed upon by scholars and is considered to be a duty. Imam Ahmed was asked, "Is it better for a man to fast, pray and worship or to criticise corruption and hypocrisy?" The Imam replied by saying that if a man prayed and worshipped, then this was for his own benefit, but if he criticised hypocrisy and corruption, then this was for the benefit of society, which is better. Despite the fact that our society and country contains numerous academics they have been too busy acquiring knowledge which has kept them from an awareness of the present situation. This situation is quite possible as was mentioned by an earlier group of scholars.

However, we have discovered that many of the scholars and their students were reluctant to declare the verdict of Allah on this present state of affairs for a variety of reasons. A group of them accepted being in positions which enabled them to conform but they waited for others to declare that verdict. Some are afraid of the consequences of such a fatwa and claim the verdict of Allah on the regime would create unrest and turmoil. This implies, however, that the declaration of Allah's verdict is an evil that must be covered and kept aside.

The scholar, Mohammed bin-al-Waddah, said that the children of Israel were destroyed at the hands of their scholars and intellectuals, and that the same would happen to this nation. It follows, therefore, that safety and happiness will only come with the acceptance of Allah's verdict.

In the light of this understand, we find that such a case must be explained in detail. We must see what the regime's position in Islam is, what the ruling of Allah is in such a case, what the consequent stand of the nation should be, and how the case should be dealt with. This means that we have to discuss the two sides of the argument, the present realities and the Shari-ah.

We must identify some constants, by way of introduction, in order to eliminate confusion and avoid misunderstandings.

A/ We can not accept a verdict or a belief without legitimate evidence. The evidence we have to accept is from the Koran and the Sunnah (The way of the Prophet PBUH [praise be upon him]), with the rules of understanding inherited from the companions and their followers. Anything other than that can not be considered as evidence in itself but it could become acceptable if further evidence is forthcoming. Everything outside Koran, Sunnah and Ijmaa (unanimous agreement of companions) is only considered as an opinion which could be right or wrong, and can be taken or rejected.

B/ The verdict on the regime is not a verdict on the individuals serving the regime, but it is a verdict on the regime as a whole, as an abstract entity, as a set of creeds, convictions, laws and regulations. The verdict may cover some of the regime's individuals but not necessarily all of them. This is a well known fact amongst students of such knowledge. Here, we are not concerned with individuals as we are discussing the verdict on the regime as a whole and its position in relation to Islam.

C/ The verdict of Allah in a case cannot be taken from only one piece of evidence, when other pieces are available. The correct rule is to use all the pieces of evidence and to deduct the verdict from their combined presentation.

This is the proper method as used by our predecessors. We mention this because some scholars intentionally ignore stronger pieces of evidence, and issue weaker examples to suit and protect regimes and rulers. For example, the Hadith that says that rulers must be forced to practice the truth and the Hadith relating the enjoining of good and forbidding of evil are an open criticism to any of corruption or misconduct, include that of rulers. These Hadith, and many others, make it a duty for a Muslim to make a clear stand against evil in general.

D/ The revealed religion of Allah is a comprehensive way of life that includes affairs of both the present and the after-life. It is from this revelation that the Prophet (PBUH) taught us all aspects of life, including political affairs and leaders. Therefore, policies should be Islamic, and not left to rulers to decide. Scholars unanimously agree that anyone who invents regulations or laws that differ from those of Allah and then forces people to comply with such laws, is considered an infidel and anyone who supports them, falls into the same category. Therefore all affairs and policies such as the judiciary, economy, internal and external relations etc, must be deduced from Shari'ah, that is from revelation.

E/ Acquiring the knowledge of the verdict of Allah with regard to the regime is a compulsory duty for Muslims. The consequences of such a verdicts is a different subject related to ability, preparation, completion of conditions and the absence of impediments. However it is compulsory for learned Muslims to clarify the truth and the facts of Islam to the people. Therefore, after the introduction, we would say that the knowledge of the verdict of Allah regarding the regime relates to the knowledge of whether it is fulfilling its legitimate duties. Leadership is formalised in Islam to fulfil important legitimate aims. those aims and duties are what we are attempting to explore. Our objective is to examine the regime's performance in order to establish whether it is fulfilling those aims, or destroying them one by one. The aims of Shari'ah cannot be achieved except by its implementation and the establishment of a system of enjoining good and forbidding evil. Included in this is the freedom to cultivate good behavior and criticise wrongdoing where necessary, as well as the establishment of an independent judicial system which would be accompanied by justice. People should be dealt with on the basis of legitimate rule. There should be full accountability of public funds and the preaching of Islam should be carried to the whole world. There are many other duties mentioned in books of Islamic politics. If the ruler neglects those duties or behaves in a manner contradictory to them. it then becomes compulsory for the nation to correct the ruler with any or all legitimate means. What should be mentioned here is that the monitoring and surveillance of rulers and their criticism, if necessary, is the undeniable duty of the whole nation. The instruction of the Prophet (PBUH) to be patient with unjust rulers, is with regard to not rising against them by force. This does not mean that the nation should cease to monitor and criticise the actions of the rulers. It applies to an unjust Muslim ruler. In our future editions, we will explore the regime's activities from a legal point of view.

News — The Public Response to Bank Scandal...

The public response to the Committee's call for the withdrawal of deposits from Al Riyadh Bank caused an greater crisis for the bank. The value of their deposits has decreased dramatically and this has led to bank officials sending a request to the interior Ministry to issue a statement of repudiation of the Committee's claim. The Interior Ministry apologised and said that such a statement would in fact confirm the Committee's claims. The strange point here is why the bank should request the Interior Ministry to protect them! What does the Interior Ministry have to do with financial affairs? It would have been more appropriate if the bank had approached the Treasury, or the Monetary Institution. The bank executives approached the Interior Ministry directly and this provides a clear indication of the nature of the police state. In such a State everyone has to turn to the Interior Ministry. No matter who — education, health, judicial, finance — all are under their control.

The other unusual point is that the bank could have directly repudiated the claims of the Committee by declaring their accounts and figures to the public. Obviously, the bank is unable to do this because the true figures are terrifying, in the real sense of the word, and their declaration would destroy whatever may be left of the Kingdom's economic reputation. The Committee repeats its call to the investors and depositors to avoid placing their money in the Kingdom's banks, particularly the so-called nationals. All of them are heading for disaster and it will be impossible for the common citizen to retrieve his money. We advise everyone to search for safer methods of saving their money. It is also necessary to remind you that Al Sa'ud do not treat these crises with the effect on the nation on their mind, their only concern is for themselves. They will not hesitate, therefore, to 'withdraw' money from the banks to fill their own pockets.

Half a Billion Commissions...

The Minister for Energy declared that a new power station was to be built. It would have an output of twelve hundred Megawatts and would cost 1.3 million Riyals. It has been found out, from trusted sources, that the real cost would not exceed 800 million Riyals, leaving 500 million Riyals in commissions. We are not in the least astonished at the size of commission taken by Al Sad. So far they have thieved (from the beginning of the 1970's) at least half the state's revenues. What does astonish us, however, is this addiction to theft and embezzlement which continues unabated even at the very peak of an economic crisis and possible collapse.

More Issues From The Advice Organisation...

This week The Advice and Reform Organisation issued its fifteenth communique. Five pages in length, it explains the difference between scholars of truth and scholars of falsehood and how each can be recognised by a Muslim. It explains the limits of obedience and respect towards scholars and thenecessity of clarifying their mistakes of in the acceptable manner. The communique also clarifies the reform in order to eliminate the misunderstandings of many people who were confused between the opinions of some scholars and the religion of Allah. The Advice Organisation has issued several communiques over previous months, amongst which were two communiques in answer to Shaykh Ibn Baz's fatwa in making peace with Israel. Another communique was devoted to the closure of charity organisations and the total control of Al Sa'ud of charitable activities. A further communique was issued regarding the recent arrests of various scholars.

Al Sa'ud Sell Bonds...

Until recently, The Kingdom kept several billion dollars, in the form of bonds, in the American Treasury. These billions held a psychological value for Al Sa'ud, as they represented the final reserves of the Saudi economic entity. In recent weeks, the last of the bonds were sold after American pressure on the kingdom to pay its debts to American companies, in particular Boeing. Despite the secrecy that has surrounded the case, such commercial operations cannot remain hidden for long; too many parties are involved. This news was actually well known in economic circles, and this caused more damage to the economic reputation of Al Sa'ud. It has been noticed, from the close monitoring of economic news, and the Saudi authority's response, that Al Sa'ud began to admit their economic crisis. Now they are busy attempting to convince various international economic institutions that taxes and tariffs will provide the solution. The Committee learned that an annual report was prepared on the instructions of the King himself and handed to the American authorities. It attempts to prove the claims that the solution to the problem lies with taxes and tariffs.

The size of the bonds in the American treasury that were owned by the Kingdom (1979/81) was between 120 billion dollars and 200 billion dollars, all of which Al Sa'ud have managed to destroy. This form of investment is not acceptable in Islam even though it only had a low interest rate and the King personally, along with a few others, were taking the interests for their own private accounts. The huge commitments of Al Sa'ud towards the USA will probably bring more pressure from the American administration. Rumours were repeated in the higher echelons of the Saudi Government that taxes and tariffs would have to be raised over the next few months in order to pay for Saudi commitments.

Darwish Scandals....

Darwish is one of Al Sa'ud's cronies, and his scandals have become the talk of the town. The case of Darwish versus the inheritors of Muwaffaw al-Maydani's estate is becoming a form of entertainment. Copies of judicial correspondence between the two sides have been circulated. This indicates the public's rejection of the huge commissions for, and the embezzlement carried out by, Darwish who was following in the footsteps of his masters Al Sa'ud, whilst under their protection. The people were impressed by Mr. Salah al-Hujaylan, the lawyer representing the Al-Maydani family, who was unable to uncover the background behind the case. Darwish was attempting to hide from the very start by forging one of the signatories and even corresponding with some prominent lawyers.

In brief, the case deals with the inheritors of al-Maydani's estate, who were surprised when, after the death of their father, a request was made from Darwish for half a billion Riyals. This was a surprise because their father had had no dealings with Darwish whatsoever. After correspondence was exchanged, it became clear that a big business deal with a Canadian company for 1.5 billion Riyals had taken place and that Darwish's slice of the commission amounted to more than one third. When the lawyer requested all the documents to enable the case to continue, al-Darwish insisted on withholding them. The case is still hot!! As a result of this problem, Al Sa'ud are preparing the scenario to enable them to "sacrifice" Darwish, even though he is one of their henchmen. The Committee has also learned that Al Sa'ud are concerned about the good reputation of the al-Hujaylan has attained as a result of the way he has dealt with the case. It has been said that a decision is underway to prevent him from travelling, on the off chance that details of the case may be exaggerated abroad.

This may provide the nation with small sample of the size and scale of the theft and embezzlement perpetrated by the regime.

A Million Pound Present...

The government of the "Custodian" of the two sacred Mosques donated, through their ambassador in London, a million pounds to the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. This would pay for a seat in Islamic Science Studies, with the condition that the person offered the seat would be appointed by al Sa'ud. The one chosen to be appointed to teach Islamic Studies was a non- Muslim. This is just one example of hundreds, or even thousands, of situations used and manipulated by Al Sa'ud to increase their influence in universities and academies throughout the world. Such donations are, in effect, an indirect bribe to such universities and academies, in order to buy their support. The budget for such activities amounts to no less than one hundred million dollars in the USA alone. The ludicrous aspect is that such donations are given abroad, whilst the universities and educational institutions throughout the Kingdom are at the peak of intense financial and economic deprivation.

More Arrests...

During the last week, two young men, Badr Bin-Fayiz al-Nassar and Salman Bin-'Abdallah al-Shamsan were arrested. Both young men are students at the Imam University in Qaseem, and their arrest caused a great deal of resentment in their home town of al-Midhnab because of their, and their families, excellent reputations.

New Crime In the Judiciary System...

One name comes immediately to mind when judiciary crimes are mentioned. One main personality in the judiciary accepted placing himself in a position of using religion, through his position and knowledge, as an excuse to serve al Sa'ud and to justify their crimes whilst destroying the reputations of al Sa'ud's opponents. In addition to all the major judicial crimes committed by this person, al Sa'ud has used him in four cases at least. Over a year ago, the brother of 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Wuhaybi was arrested as a "hostage", to persuade 'Abd-al-'Aziz to surrender. After the declaration of the Committee's activities from London, 'Ammar al- Mas'ari was arrested in an attempt to pressurise his father. When Shaykh Nasir al-'Umar was wanted for arrest, his son was detained as a "hostage" until his father returned to Riyadh. Also, during Hajj, the father of Salih al-Juday was arrested so that Salih would surrender himself.

However, all the above are insignificant compared to the new crime in the judiciary, which was implemented at the hands of al-Luhaydan and his senior and junior student judges. The Committee has learned of the details of a huge judicial crime, under the supervision of al-Luhaydan committed by a group of judges against the men behind the reform. The Committee will expose this crime with details, names of the perpetrators and the circumstances surrounding it, when everything concerning the case is collected.

Apology To Shaykh Sulayman al-Lahim

The Committee mentioned in issue 47, an item of news under the heading "Lecturers and the Intelligence Profession,." Amongst the names we incorrectly mentioned that of the Head of the Koranic Studies Department. We would like to state here that it was an unintentional printing error, and that His Eminence, Shaykh Sulayman al-Lahim, is in no way accused of such behaviour. The one intended to be mentioned was another person known to the students and staff of the university.

We mention this error and we offer our sincere apologies to the Shaykh for any distress caused.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Arab Issues

NC2006200095 Doha Qatar Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Qatari moderator Muhammad al-Misfir on 20 May; from the "Dialogue on an Issue" — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Misfir] [passage omitted] What has happened to our kinsfolk in Iraq? How would you describe Iraq's march?

[Al-Sahhaf] What has happened to Iraq must be viewed as part of the debate on Iraq. Iraq is part of the great Arab homeland, a part where the Arabs have established their most glorious civilization since ancient times. The ancient Arabs, Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and their descendants who bore aloft the banner of Islam, chose this area of the great homeland to establish a civilization renowned throughout the whole world. In addition to the Arab glories it has witnessed, Iraq has been subjected to many problems and ordeals over its long history. It has been invaded by the Persians, the Byzantines, and modern colonialists. Formerly it was invaded by Hulagu and the Mongols.

Most recently the new barbarians, the Americans, tried to invade it. They failed. During the recent conflict, popularly known as the Gulf crisis, total and intentional destruction was inflicted on Iraq on the pretext of driving the Iraqis from Kuwait. They attacked textile factories, hospitals, even places of worship, and destroyed water projects, bridges, roads, homes, and even Bedouin tents in the Karbala' desert on this pretext. This total destruction had no relationship to what was described as driving Iraq from Kuwait. [passage omitted] When you combine the deliberate military destruction of all utilities and service projects with a total blockade that is so stupid that it bans the import of pencils, medicinal cotton, and shroud cloth, the people will certainly suffer. The people, although subjected to such stupid international actions, are still strong, full of resolve, able to see things the way they really are, and know who stands behind this cruel conduct. They are determined to remain steadfast, endure, and defend their rights.

The suffering is great. There are many problems connected with everyday life. When there is a total blockade that freezes a nation's normal economic activity, the direct consequence will be an exorbitant rise in prices, commodity shortages, and incomes that are totally unsuitable to the unbearable living costs. The result is suffering. Apart from this, I assure you — and I am not boasting or blustering — that although the Iraqis suffer, they understand what the game is about. They remain steadfast because they feel that they are right.

[Al-Misfir] [passage omitted] Your Excellency, you now need the backing of all the free voices that might join you — Arabs and non-Arabs, Muslims and non-Muslims. A large segment of the Iraqi people lives in exile, either voluntarily or to escape what has been described as injustice, oppression, and so on. I mean those people who are described as the Iraqi opposition. Why does the regime not open up to these forces who now live abroad, instead of letting them waste their energies moving between Washington, London, Paris, and some Arab capitals. Why does the Iraqi regime not help these people end the crisis and extricate Iraq from its present setback?

[Al-Sahhaf] This is an important question, Dr. Muhammad. To be honest with you, I find that it is necessary to clarify to you the facts about the Iraqi citizens who left Iraq and spread out to other Arab and foreign countries. The Iraqis who left Iraq did not do so as a result of the Gulf crisis. Some Iraqis left during the eight-year period when Iranian aggression was being repelled. Most of them did not leave for political reasons; and we maintain close and continuing ties with them via our embassies abroad and through direct contact. Most of them return to Iraq periodically. [passage omitted]

A few Iraqis say that they left the country for political reasons. They are, specifically, members of the Iraqi Communist Party and some politicians belonging to old movements. For example there are the members of the so-called al-Da'wah Party, a group of politicians linked to Iran. When the Iraq-Iran war erupted, they sided with the Iranian enemy, and hence lost their character as a national opposition. They linked themselves to a foreign country and carried arms against their own people. They fought alongside the Iranian troops and the Iranian volunteers, the so-called Khomeyni Guard. They were no longer an opposition in the sense that you, I, or any politician anywhere recognizes. [passage omitted]

The same applies to the Iraqi Communist Party. As you know, we had a dialogue with this party but it chose to resort to arms in a bid to change the regime. We had the right to oppose it with measures appropriate to their choice.

The Iraqis abroad are not a political opposition. Some people are political opponents but the vast majority did not leave for political reasons. We are confident that their ties to their country are very strong. We benefit from them and they indeed have strong links with their homeland.

If you asked me about the opposition, I will tell you that every country has a history of how this sort of thing develops. It is not a question of wishes, nor a cliche [preceding word in English] repeated in one country after another. Every country has its own circumstances. Opposition groups and political parties develop. Sometimes there are not many political parties.

Iraq's political history is no secret. Foreigners have even written books about it. As a consequence of its social, cultural, and economic development and the proliferation of crises and changes it witnessed between 1958 — when the monarchical regime ended and a republican system was introduced — and 1968 Iraq passed through a decade of continuous disturbances and political upheavals. These ten years produced many things. Some Iraqi parties appeared when the Iraqi state was established in 1920. Some, like the Independence Party, the National Democratic Party, and the Popular Front Party, played their roles and then grew smaller and vanished over the years. The political movement then produced several other parties, including the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

That leaves the Kurdish parties as the only real opposition. We formerly had a dialogue with them and concluded some agreements, but a point was reached when they, too, chose to link themselves with foreigners. I hope this will be clear: I am not just making accusations. I am ready to supply you with examples of their statements. Jalal Talabani goes to Washington to receive instructions and says that he is forced to contact the Americans because he is their ally. He goes to London to get information from the British intelligence services because he has links with them. This also applies to the others. We are not saying that there are no Kurdish political movements. These do exist. Our only objection is to their links to foreign intelligence apparatuses. Apart from this, they are existing political forces.

We negotiated with them in 1991 in the wake of all-out aggression against Iraq, when the country was in very poor condition. When they rebelled in the north, we went north to confront them, even though we were in very poor condition. They fled. They sent messages asking for a dialogue and even though they were in a very weak position, we welcomed the dialogue because we acknowledge that there are Kurdish political parties who disagree with us. Having different points of view is not a reason for war; not at all. Indeed, it is a reason for more active national action that includes representatives of the various viewpoints, as long as all the disagreeing groups seek what is good for their country and people.

We had talks with them from April until August 1991 and reached a new formula to enrich democracy and enhance the autonomy of the Iraqi Kurds. They said: Yes, this is what we were hoping for. Perhaps we have several other demands but we do not think they are important now. This is something good but please allow us to ask our allies first. Jalal Talabani then traveled to Washington and met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, who later became U.S. ambassador to the Zionist entity. Talabani told him about the agreement with the Iraqi Government. The American read it and told him: Are you crazy? This agreement strengthens Saddam Husayn. We have already told you that our policy is to topple Saddam Husayn. You are forbidden to sign this agreement. So he returned and said he could not sign the agreement because the Americans objected.

Dr. Muhammad, what more do you want to know now? This is a fact. I consider his group a political party, but I cannot allow an Iraqi political party to take orders from the Americans. Tell me what country allows its political parties to have links with foreigners, even in the West with its professed liberalism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] I hope the viewers will listen to this. News agencies report that when you differ with someone, you cut off his ear, nose, leg, or hand. This is a terrorist regime and not a political one.

[Al-Sahhaf] Of course, when a regime is described as such, certainly [words indistinct]. No, no, never. A citizen in Iraq.... [pauses] The Iraqis are well known. They will annihilate anyone who tries to rule them by force. Unless they are convinced of the regime, believe me, they will reject it. The history of Iraq provides testimony. The regime that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has built in Iraq is liked by the people, because it is sincere and has served the people's interests since 1962. All the Iraqi people are aware of this. In fact, since the end of the 1970s, the life of the people in Iraq has completely changed. There were more people barefooted in Iraq than shoed ones, even though it was an oil country. In 10 years Iraq has achieved great development and the standard of living has risen. Iraq fought illiteracy and made great progress in the sphere of education and all others. The Iraqis know that the regime led by Saddam Husayn is sincere and serious and works hard. A question was raised about how Iraq could achieve political development in tandem with its economic development. President Saddam Husayn's answer was democracy and a multiparty system. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] The Gulf war or the war that was launched on Kuwait or from Kuwait on Iraq, we have been facing a crisis and we may continue to suffer this tragedy for many years to come. There is talk about Arab reconciliation. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, along with writers and intellectuals, have called for Arab reconciliation. Has anyone approached you about this issue. Do you have anything to say about it?

[Al-Sahhaf] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid presented his working plan to all the Arab countries. We received his plan, as did the other Arab countries. The working paper that 'Abd-Majid presented asked every Arab country to present its views, remarks, and proposals on the issue of Arab reconciliation. Iraq submitted its views, remarks, and proposals to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid; it was a well-planned and serious working paper. Iraq's response was that it encourages Arab reconciliation. Iraq criticized certain clauses in the paper submitted by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid. Iraq submitted a constructive reply, which consisted of 24 printed pages and covered all aspects of the issue. Iraq is an Arab country that believes in Arab nationalism and in joint Arab action. You can ask any Arab leader or intellectual about Iraq's role in stimulating, encouraging, and backing every joint Arab action. We adopt clear views and a national stance. We are for Arab reconciliation based on principles on which all the Arabs should agree to serve their common interests and future. However, using certain pretexts to block Arab reconciliation will only harm the interests of all Arab countries, particularly those who use such pretexts. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Since Iraq is suffering from starvation and is extending its hand for help and asking for the lifting of the embargo, why did you move your Army into the south last October?

[Al-Sahhaf] Was there a resolution preventing us from conducting exercises inside our territory? If you move the Qatari Armed Forces during the ordinary annual exercises, would the Security Council meet to discuss this? We conducted training exercises inside our borders. What was all this hue and cry?

[Al-Misfir] Because your intentions were suspicious.

[Al-Sahhaf] Why? How can you judge our intentions?

[Al-Misfir] Moving such a huge Army?

[Al-Sahhaf] We did not move large forces. We only moved the forces deployed in south Iraq. We did not bring forces from other areas. These were the same forces usually deployed in the al-Basrah area. When military exercises are conducted, other forces join for training purposes. Only a few forces joined the exercises. The furor was raised because of the general atmosphere. In fact, the U.S. policy seeks to keep the situation tense. The United States wants to serve its own policy, which has nothing to do with Kuwait's security or the situation in Iraq. Let me tell you that the Americans want to impose their presence and domination on our area. They imposed resolutions on Iraq and did what they did to defame Iraq because it conducted exercises in the south. Since Kuwait is the 52d state of the United States, the Americans used the Iraqi military exercise as a pretext. The United States brought forces to Kuwait and deployed them near the Iraqi border, but we did not say this threatened our security. Only recently William Perry visited the Iraqi border area and made threats. We said nothing because we know he wanted to extort the Kuwaitis and take more billions. It is all a U.S. ploy. We are not threatening anyone. If you want us to open the file of what happened we are quite ready to do so from the beginning. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Does Iraq intend to proceed with the so-called peace process?

[Al-Sahhaf] I want to define my answer within an official framework. We believe that the Arab-Zionist conflict is an Arab problem. It was called the Middle East problem, but it is an Arab problem. The Arabs discussed the problem within the institutions of joint Arab action. They devoted the Arab summit conferences to chart a general policy for the Arabs to pursue when they vote on a certain resolution at a summit conference. We viewed and still view this issue as a national, pan-Arab problem. In our view, it is not an Iraqi, Qatari, Egyptian, or Moroccan problem. Thus, my official answer to this issue is that Iraq is committed to the resolutions it approved among the Arab summit resolutions. There are Arab summit resolutions that Iraq did not approve and so we are not committed to them. We are committed to the resolutions that Iraq approved among those passed by the various Arab summit conferences, the latest of which was the Baghdad Summit of 1990. These resolutions do not approve of what is currently going on. Thus, we are not committed to what is currently going on. We will not interfere with the others. Given our current circumstances in Iraq — we are besieged and are the target of a fierce onslaught for hostile political purposes aimed at our independence, freedom, and wealth — we are not in a position to discuss anything outside the framework of the Arab summit resolutions that Iraq approved. This is our pan-Arab view. If you ask me as Iraq, we do not want to delve into this issue. If you ask me as an Arab citizen, I say that Iraq at present must not be asked anything because it is not prepared. It is a pan-Arab country committed to it nation's interests.

[Al-Misfir] Do you want to address a message on behalf of the Iraqi people to their brethren in the Arab world and the Islamic world?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I believe that if you ask your brothers in Iraq what they would like to tell their Arab brethren and their brothers in religion in the Islamic world, I believe that they will say that even though Iraq is the direct victim of the unjust embargo, it concerns the Arabs and Muslims, because weakening Iraq will not only be inimical to Iraq, but will have adverse effects on all of them. Even though the Security Council resolutions are unfair and harsh, Iraq complied with all their fundamental and secondary details. If the Arab brothers and Muslims support their brothers in Iraq, they will not be doing anything against these unfair resolutions. We ask the Arab and Muslim brothers to assist Iraq and demand that the embargo be lifted. They will be standing on solid ground if they do this and will not even oppose the so-called international legitimacy. I am sure that the Iraqis want to tell their brothers that they are suffering from hardships, but they assure the Arab and Muslim brothers that they are stronger and greater than all these hardships and ordeals. The Iraqis will overcome all these ordeals relying on themselves, but they will be more capable of doing so if they receive support from the Arabs and Muslims. Thank you.

Senior Commanders Explain Mobilization of Reservists

JN2006190095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 20 June carries a 10-minute recorded interview with the director of general recruitment, the director of mobilization and statistics, and the director of general military accounts, each holding the rank of major general, but not identified by name. The topic is the call-up of reserve officers for 30 days of training.

The interviewer, an unidentified colonel, addresses the first question to the director of mobilization and statistics about the "idea" behind the call-up. The director says that calling up reservists for training is a procedure followed by most nations. He adds: "For us, this is the first call-up for training purposes. In the past, we used to call up reservists to fill vacancies in operational reserve units (?on the fronts). It is known that from 1980 until now, Iraq has been engaged in glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah [war with Iran] and the immortal Mother of Battles. Therefore, most reserve units are still in military service. Therefore, there was no need for [words indistinct]. But now, nearly four years after the discharge of (?some) reserve units, the need has arisen for the training of reservists so they can keep in touch with [words indistinct]."

Asked whether the reserve officers will be called up for one month every four years, the director says: "For now, the call-up will be once every four years. Each year, except for this year in which we will call up those born in four different years, we will call up reservists born in five different years. In the future, next year, we will call up those born in five different years [words indistinct]." He adds that officers should report to the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate within five days of the date of the call-up so they can be deployed among the training camps.

The director of general recruitment lists the documents required to be carried by officers reporting to the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate. Those documents include an identity card, an Iraqi nationality certificate, a ration card, a discharge from active military service, and two photos.

The director of military accounts then details the salaries and allowances to be granted to mobilized reservists. He says that relevant laws and regulations in effect will be applied.

He cites a clause in the military service law stipulating that if a reserve officer is a state employee receiving a salary higher than that of an active-duty officer of corresponding rank, he will continue to receive the higher salary and allowances. As for private sector employees, he adds, reservists will continue to receive salaries from their firms for six weeks. Afterward, each reservist will be paid by the government according to his rank and seniority.

Concluding, the interviewer says that more discussions will be held with other military commanders on the details of the training courses.

Former Chief of Staff Reportedly Arrested

NC2006144995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to knowledgeable Iraqi sources, Saddam Husayn has issued instructions for the arrest of former Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Iyad al-Rawi, who had refused to accept his new assignment as the al-Anbar governor in place of current Governor 'Awwad Bandar. Reports say that Bandar has been appointed to another position. [passage omitted]

Radio Cites Opposition on 'Fresh Confrontations'

JN2006125895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that fresh confrontations erupted yesterday in the desert area, western Iraq, between the Al Bu-Nimr tribe and government forces, adding that the government forces are still besieging al-Ramadi, the largest city in al-Anbar Governorate, and depriving it of food supplies. This came in a statement to AFP by Najib al-Dulaymi, one of the prominent figures of the al-Dulaym tribe who fled from Iraq recently. Najib al-Dulaymi said that the clashes which took place in al-Anbar Governorate one month ago, resulted in the killing of 200 persons from his tribe, which was prevented from burying its dead. Najib al-Dulaymi accused the Army of spraying a chemical substance on the ranches where the al-Dulaym tribesmen sought refuge.

Regarding the military rebellion which took place a few days ago in Abu Gharib, near Baghdad, the French newspaper LE MONDE cites an official in the Iraqi Shiite opposition as saying that it was the beginning of a real coup in which many ranking officers took part. However, the Shiite opposition did not take part in this coup attempt, as he called it.

Anyway, it is difficult to know the real situation in the absence of accurate information from independent sources. However, the importance of these events, as a U.S. official has said, lies in the fact that resentment against the Iraqi regime has spread to include the Sunni base on which the regime depends.

Jordanian Paper Reports on Abu Gharib Events

JN2106100895 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 21 Jun 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Exclusive to SAWT AL-MAR'AH — The Abu Gharib region (20 km south of Baghdad) was the scene of an armed military rebellion against the rule of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last week, as reported by the news media. Reports said sporadic battles took place for two days in an area covering a 40-km radius, which covers the distance between Baghdad and the small town of al-Fallujah in the al-Anbar Governorate.

This region is full of large estates belonging to officials in Baghdad. It is also the site of the al-Tharthar tourist canal, which was closed to citizens a few years ago and has been turned into an exclusive spot for the Iraqi president's family and its bodyguards. The Abu Gharib prison, which is one of Iraq's largest prisons, is also located within this area. This is in addition to a large number of Army camps, artillery units, armors, and caches for the launching pads of long-range missiles that were fired from that area toward Israel in 1991.

Also in that region there are several palaces belonging to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and one of the largest detention centers for prisoners and those who rebel against the regime in al-Radwaniyah area. In that area, thousands of the people of the southern provinces gathered in 1991 following the massive rebellion that took place then. [passage omitted]

As a result of the clashes that took place in al-Ramadi last month after receiving the body of Staff Pilot Major General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulamyi, a large number of officers from the al-Dulaym tribes carried out rebellious and revengeful actions. Thus, they executed al-Anbar Governor Muhammad al-Sa'dun and blew up government buildings in al-Ramadi. In addition, Colonel Muhsin al-Dulaymi led a rebellion at the al-Ramadi post. [passage omitted]

An eyewitness reported that the rebels failed to achieve their objectives because the prisoners were not in Abu Gharib prison. They were held in al-Radwaniyah prison underground near the large building of al-Qadisiyah. The building is a palace that was built on a hill in that area. In addition, the Abu Gharib transmitters are currently not used to strengthen transmission since they are an obvious target. The transmitters were bombed several times by the aircraft of the Western coalition in 1991. Perhaps, this is the logical reason why radio and television transmission in Iraq was not affected. It is worth mentioning that the Radio and Television Corporation currently uses large and advanced equipment to strengthen transmission (located south of Baghdad), called by the Iraqi officials (Khalid station). This is in addition to a large number of emergency mobile units, the location of which is known only by the Iraqi president himself and a very limited number of the technicians who operate them. These units are constantly moving in order to make it difficult to locate them. One of these units broadcast Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech after declaring withdrawal from Kuwait in October 1991. [passage omitted]

The al-Fallujah city and the other cities which are in al-Anbar Governorate are currently besieged by the emergency forces and the Saddam Commando units. A curfew is imposed on these cities at night in an attempt to contain the overwhelming tide of popular indignation, triggered by the ugly mutilation of the body of Pilot Maj. Gen. Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, who lived in that region and before his arrest was the commander of the al-Habbaniyah Air Base — one of the nearest bases to Baghdad and the oldest. [passage omitted]

Masses Continue To Pledge Loyalty to Saddam

Al-Ta'mim Tribal Chiefs

JN1906162095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tribal chieftains and clan heads in the Daquq District in the al-Ta'mim Governorate have renewed the pledge to remain loyal soldiers to leader President Saddam Husayn so they may be able to defend great Iraq.

At a rally held in the district center, they reiterated their constant readiness to double their efforts and mobilize all their potential to increase agricultural production in order to defeat the unfair blockade clamped on our steadfast people.

The rally was attended by al-Ta'mim Governor Hisham Sabah Fakhri and the comrade secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's al-Ta'mim Branch Command.

'Massive Rally' in al-Nasiriyah

JN2006172295 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The people's masses in Dhi Qar Governorate have renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers in defense of great Iraq. At a massive rally in al-Nasiriyah they affirmed their full readiness to give, make sacrifices, and devote all energies and capabilities until the crossing is attained.

The rally was attended by Comrade 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of Ba'th Party organizations in al-Basrah, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Maysan, and the comrade secretary and members of Dhi Qar party branch leadership.

Kuwaiti Version of Canceled Border Meeting Refuted

JN1906195495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to statements made by representatives of the Kuwaiti regime, an authorized Foreign Ministry source has stated the following:

First, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has proposed a fact-finding visit to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border area, during which two teams, an Iraqi team and a Kuwaiti team, would cross into each other's territory. The visit was scheduled to have been made on 18 June under ICRC supervision.

Second, the Iraqi team, accompanied by representatives of the ICRC mission in Baghdad, left for the al-Basrah Governorate on the morning of 17 June on their way to Kuwait. Upon their arrival in al-Basrah Governorate, the Iraqi team was notified that the Kuwaiti team refused to cross into Iraqi territory through the Safwan border post, the only border post between the two sides. Furthermore, the Kuwaitis also refused to travel the 28 km between the border post and the Umm Qasr area which was scheduled to be the venue of the visit unless a special border post was set up for it opposite Umm Qasr.

Third, the Kuwaiti team was notified through the ICRC representative that the Iraqi authorities were still ready to receive the Kuwaiti team through the Safwan border post, and that they cannot change their laws and move an entire border post with its employees, registers, equipment, and stamps to another area, as the Kuwaiti rulers wish, just because a Kuwaiti delegation did not want to travel the 25-minute distance from its job site. Nonetheless, the representatives of the Kuwaiti rulers were adamant about their position, and thus refused to make the visit.

Fourth, it has become clear that the Kuwaiti rulers are not serious and they seek to delay the work of the technical subcommittee charged with searching for missing Kuwaitis and obstruct its work to promote suspicious political purposes.

Russian Minister Posuvalyuk Meets Leading Officials

Discusses 'Coordination' With 'Aziz

JN2006204195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed coordination between Iraq and Russia regarding Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council, and the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 as soon as possible as the first step toward the full lifting of the unjust blockade, especially since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward Resolution 687.

The two sides also discussed relations of friendship between Iraq and Russia in all fields serving the interests of the two friendly countries.

Attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid of the Military Industrialization Organization, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

Views Blockade With Foreign Minister

*JN2006151395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this morning received Viktor Posuvalyuk, visiting Russian deputy foreign minister.

The foreign minister discussed with the Russian guest ways of bolstering cooperation and promoting relations between Iraq and Russia in the interest of the two countries and their peoples.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the work with the UN Security Council. The two sides stressed the need to coordinate efforts between the two countries toward the Security Council's implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Posuvalyuk expressed his country's desire to bolster bilateral relations and continue consultations and coordination to expedite the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade imposed on them. [passage omitted]

Shahaq To Demand Demilitarized Zone to Damascus

TA2006182995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff meet in Washington next week, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq will demand the demilitarization of the Syrian Army in the entire area between the Golan Heights and the outskirts of Damascus. Our Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel has learned that Israel intends to demand that a impregnable physical barrier separate the Syrian forces and the Golan Heights. Here is his report:

[Begin Daniyel recording] This is the area that Israel will demand be fully demilitarized when the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff meet in Washington. Even on an hazy day, one can see the houses on the outskirts of Damascus from Mt. Hermon. Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahaq will tell his Syrian counterpart that the entire area between the line agreed upon in the framework of negotiations and Damascus must be cleared of all military forces. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] demilitarization plan naturally seeks to maximize the size of the demilitarized areas, which will move the Syrian tanks and artillery, which came far too close for comfort in the Yom Kippur War, as far as possible from the future border line. The IDF demilitarization plan stipulates that Syrian armored units will not cross al-Laja, a strip of lava which surrounds Damascus. Inside this strip, traffic can only travel along paved roads, which will greatly hinder any surprise movement by Syrian tanks toward the Israeli border. This situation, for example, is quite convenient for assault helicopters which even today continue to train on the Golan Heights. Early warning stations and confidence-building measures such as joint patrols along both sides of this sensitive border will also feature on the chiefs of staff's agenda. [end recording]

Issues, Emphasis at Talks Previewed

TA2106110895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben, Eytan Rabin, and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has said that "from a security point of view, the Golan Heights is not as important as it is being described, but that the Israeli Governments' propaganda has been so successful that today the Israeli population is more conservative about this than its leadership."

According to Beilin, "the issue is not geography; it is the type of weapons the Syrians will have, the security deployment, and the nature of relations between the two countries. Any arrangement on the Golan Heights will include demilitarization and warning stations."

Beilin made the remarks during a meeting with Danish parliamentarians who visited Israel several days ago. Briefing them on the peace process, Beilin said that "the big questions is: Do the Syrians really want peace?"

In the chiefs of staff talks between Israel and Syria that will start in Washington on 26 June, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq will present the Israeli security concept regarding the peace arrangement with Syria. Special emphasis will be put on Israel's demands regarding the territory to be demilitarized of Syrian Army units. [passage omitted]

According to military sources, "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is drafting a plan of tough security measures. In the negotiations with the Syrians, we will have to sit on each and every clause, which might take many months, if not years." The General Staff has not yet formalized a binding and detailed plan regarding all the security elements. These issues have so far been broached in inner discussions, but the final document has not yet been drafted.

Gen. Shahaq has already decided on the composition of the officers delegation for the military talks in Washington. The list has not yet been published and is still pending the approval of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

(ITIM) Hundreds of Golan residents last night staged a giant demonstration at the Gibor junction in Qiryat Shemona, protesting the arrival of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for the celebrations marking Metulla's 100th anniversary which started yesterday. The demonstrators blocked roads and clashed with the police.

Beilin Seeks Economic Deal for Syria After Peace

TA2106075395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Hillel Kuttler]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has been quietly sounding out several European countries and Japan about offering economic assistance to Syria after it reaches a peace accord with Israel, a senior Foreign Ministry official told THE JERUSALEM POST.

Among the possibilities being raised is the rescheduling of "a few billion dollars in loans" owed by Syria, the official said. Beilin has talked to officials from

Germany, Britain, France, Spain, Sweden, Austria, and Japan. None of the countries has made any commitments, nor has Beilin asked for any specific amounts of aid.

Beilin has instructed Israel's ambassadors in every European country to investigate the scope of Syrian debt to their host countries, and to inquire about special grants and loans for which Damascus could be eligible. "We are talking about utilizing money that could be in the pipeline, both bilaterally or multilaterally. We are not asking to set aside new money," a senior Israeli official said.

An example of aid sought by the Foreign Ministry on Syria's behalf is an unspecified budgetary slice of a soon-to-be announced plan by the European Union (EU) to provide grants of an expected $6.5 billion to Mediterranean countries, plus a similar sum in loans to these countries over the next five years.

A senior European diplomat confirmed that this program is to be announced next week at an EU Council of Ministers meeting in Cannes, France. "We have found the Europeans enthusiastic about the prospect of putting together a package, because it gives them a role without asking them for new money. This way they could use their leverage," the senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Israel would prefer the EU put together an economic package for Syria to be announced at its November business conference in Barcelona, with the understanding that the package is contingent on a peace deal being reached. It remains unclear how Europeans and Japanese officials will react. A Japanese official said, "We have been asked by an Israeli official to explore such assistance to Syria. We have not yet given our response."

A senior European diplomat said any European assistance plan must be seen in proportion. "Let us remember that what will decide these US-brokered negotiations between Israel and Syria will be what happens with the Golan," the diplomat said. "There can be other inducements apart from the Golan, and Europeans will try to exercise influence where possible, but it will not be decisive."

When asked for a reaction to the Foreign Ministry effort, 'Aliza Goren, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said, "If something is being done by the Foreign Ministry on this question, it is not occurring with the authorization of the prime minister." Rabin said last week that all Arab countries that make peace with Israel, including Syria, should be entitled to foreign assistance.

According to the senior Foreign Ministry official, the effort to enlist European help began after officials in Jerusalem were upset earlier this year when the EU unilaterally lifted an arms embargo and Britain resumed flights to Damascus after a nine-year break, without receiving any reciprocal concessions from Syria. The approach to the Europeans and Japanese also received impetus from the trouble Jordan is having getting $275 million in debt relief from a budget-cutting US Congress.

Syria, which is still on the State Department's Terrorism List, would likely have a much harder time, a senior Clinton administration official confirmed. Beilin has briefed the US on his efforts, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

According to a source close to the Egyptian leadership, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly complained to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that Secretary of State Warren Christopher has not outlined a peace package for Syria in the event of a peace deal with Israel.

Sources claim that when al-Asad raised this issue with Christopher during their March meeting, Christopher said this could only be discussed after a peace accord with Israel has been reached. However, US officials deny this. The issue of what benefits might accrue to Syria from the US for making peace with Israel has not come up in Washington-Damascus talks, a senior Clinton administration official said yesterday.

While Syria seeks "removal of statutory restrictions" emanating from Damascus's presence on the State Department's lists of countries supporting drug dealing and terrorism, "they've never intimated anything like" receiving financial benefits, the officials said.

In any case, the administration has no intention of rewarding Syria by removing it from the lists without the Syrians meriting this change in status, he stated.

Explains Initiatives for Aid to Syria

TA2106075695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by correspondents Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] This morning we learned about your initiative to muster international economic aid for Syria. Is it true that the prime minister is unaware of this initiative?

[Beilin] I must say that the media reports on this issue sound much more serious and official than the real story. In reality, however, the Europeans are on the one hand asking what they can do to help the political process with Syria and the Palestinians, while on the other hand, each European state is making separate bilateral decisions vis-a-vis Syria. As an example, I can cite a decision to lift the weapons embargo against Syria, or a decision to open aviation ties, and so forth. I told several of my European interlocutors that if they want to get involved and have an impact, this must mainly be done in the economic sphere, especially since the U.S. aid to the Middle East will certainly not grow. It is not likely that the Americans will shower funds on Syria in the wake of a peace agreement. I told the Europeans not to rush into lifting the embargoes or aiding Syria at present. I told them to consider what sort of economic package they can come up with in order to encourage Syria to seriously join the process, and to present it with this package after it signs a peace agreement with us. In this way, I told them: You will contribute to the process, accelerate it, and aid Syria where others cannot.

[Dan] How were these ideas received?

[Beilin] Look, this matter has not been dealt with in an organized fashion. We are dealing here with several talks held over the last two months. I was pleased to encounter an extremely sympathetic European reaction. I have also seen some inter-European cooperation on this issue. I hope that, on the one hand, Syria will not be given premature aid, and that on the other, such an aid package will be arranged in order to boost Syrian motivation and perhaps help it vis-a-vis internal public opinion.

[Friedman] I assume that were I a Syrian, I would have been extremely annoyed with the Israeli deputy foreign minister for trying to deny me economic aid of which I am in dire need at the present time.

[Beilin] Look, I will be very sorry if the Syrians are angry with me. They have been angry with me for quite a long time now, and it is possible they will continue to be. My ultimate goal is peace, and I want to reach a peace wherein my neighbors will also feel this process offers an advantage for them on both the individual and collective levels. This is what I have been working for in the last years, and I will continue to do so.

[Dan] Some people can view this issue from a different angle and wonder why you are lobbying in such a way for al-Asad.

[Beilin] Well, the people who are opposed to the process will also be angry with me. Nothing will surprise me. I think that this move is warranted and does not require a decision by my superiors. There is no reason for opposing it. I have noticed, at one point, that the European action vis-a-vis Syria is misguided and uncoordinated. This has created a situation where, on the one hand, Syria is already receiving benefits as though it has already made peace, and on the other hand, it is possible that when peace is signed Europe will not be prepared to aid it. This is where my efforts are directed.

Opposition To Fund Fight Against Golan Withdrawal

TA2106063195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Knesset opposition factions will transfer money to the Golan committee and YESHA', the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in order to fight a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Each Knesset member from the opposition will allocate 3,000 shekels for the fund.

Rabin Awaiting Damascus Reply on Lebanon Attacks

TA2106140395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the three soldiers killed in south Lebanon yesterday died from the explosion of bombs filled with iron balls rather than rockets, as earlier reported. He was addressing the Labor Knesset faction. Rabin also said Israel was waiting for a reply from Damascus after the United States conveyed to Syria the seriousness of the recent katyusha attacks into northern Israel. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The situation in southern Lebanon, said Prime Minister Rabin, represents a constant war on terrorism. We are determined to stay there, he told the weekly meeting of the Labor caucus, to ensure the well-being of the settlements in northern Israel and in full cooperation with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] to protect the residents in the south Lebanon security zone. The prime minister also said Israel will continue not only to defend but to carry out offensive operations.

Relating to the katyusha rocket attacks into northern Israel, Rabin noted that they represent a violation of the 1993 understandings with Syria. As such, Israel has related a complaint to the United States, which acted as a mediator in the 1993 understandings, and said Rabin, I have the basis to believe that the Americans have passed on their position to the Syrians, and we will see what develops. But the prime minister repeated that Iran, not Syria, is supplying Hizballah with dozens, if not hundreds, of Sagger antitank missiles, ammunition, mortars, machine guns, and large quantities of explosive materials.

In the attack the other day, in which three Israeli soldiers were killed, the autopsy results revealed that the cause was the explosion of bombs planted in the area, weighing up to 30 kg and more, with dozens if not hundreds of iron balls inside, which are aimed to scatter in a particular direction. Rabin said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force operated properly, according to instructions. [end recording]

IDF Analysts: Hizballah To Step Up Attacks

TA2006133795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 95 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Analysts in the Northern Command believe that Hizballah will step up its attacks in south Lebanon despite U.S. attempts to pressure Syria into restraining the organization. They said Iran is funding a major part of Hizballah activities in Lebanon.

The analysts said that Syria can prevent Hizballah from transferring weapons and money through crossings in the Lebanese al-Biqa', which is under Syrian control, but it does not have much influence over the level of local activity.

In the analysts' assessment, if Syria wants to stop the organization's activities it will have to bring its army into Lebanon, which will not happen: Syria will make do with closing crossings and expelling Hizballah leaders from Lebanon.

Nevertheless, a military intelligence officer said, "It suits Syria for Hizballah to attack the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] while they sit on the sidelines."

According to initial IDF debriefings on Sunday's incident in which three soldiers were killed in south Lebanon, the terrorists waited hours in citrus groves and houses on the outskirts of the Shiite township of Tibnin for the Giv'ati force. [passage omitted]

Jordan Claims Growing Disappointment With Peace Accord

TA2006104795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben, Revital Levistein, and Hayim Bi'or]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is growing disappointment among the Jordanian public and parliament with the peace accord with Israel, according to a message transmitted by a Jordanian Government element to Israel several days ago. "We are distancing ourselves from peace," the Jordanian element said in a message that was brought to the attention of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The Jordanian element, whose remarks were made with the knowledge of the Foreign Ministry in Amman, sharply criticized Israel, especially its actions toward the Palestinians, such as the closure, and its activities in Jerusalem. He called the decision to suspend the land seizures in Jerusalem positive and said it prevented a crisis, but warned against similar steps in the future. "Moving even a single stone in Jerusalem unites the entire Muslim world against Israel and peace," the Jordanian said, adding: "East Jerusalem is under Jordanian sovereignty."

The message passed to Rabin referred to the growing opposition in the Jordanian parliament to peace with Israel and said that 23 of the 80 members of parliament belong to the opposition, which is against peace. The Jordanian also referred to economic ties with Israel and noted that Amman rejected the Israeli proposal to hire Jordanian workers despite high unemployment in Jordan because it does not wish to appear to be taking economic advantage of the Palestinians, who cannot work in Israel because of the closure.

The Jordanian element sharply criticized the United States for not meeting its undertaking to write off Jordan's debt. He said the Jordanians hope that the economic conference that will take place in Amman in October will have wide-ranging participation from firms in Europe and Japan, "and not only from Israel and the United States."

He praised Japan for recently granting Jordan a $500 million loan under very easy terms.

A different report, transmitted to Jerusalem by Israeli Ambassador to Amman Shim'on Shamir, says that King Husayn remains firm in his support for the peace process while cautiously calculating his moves against opposition elements and over the public and parliamentary disappointment with the process. The ambassador gave as an example the expulsion of two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Amman.

Shamir noted in his report, which was conveyed to the prime minister, that the Jordanian public does not see economic improvement as a result of the peace accord, which impedes support for the agreement. A Jordanian official told Israeli officials that King Husayn was on the verge of a political crisis over land appropriations in Jerusalem. He said Husayn was about to decide either to disband the parliament, where the attacks on Israel and the agreement have reached a peak, or harm the peace with Israel. The Israeli Government's decision to suspend the appropriations absolved Husayn from the serious dilemma he faced.

Revital Levistein adds: The dispute between Jordan and Israel over the border demarcation in the 'Arava was not resolved yesterday and will be decided by Rabin and Husayn, apparently this month. The members of the Israeli-Jordanian border committee yesterday continued their deliberations in an attempt to resolve the dispute, but following several hours of discussions in which agreement was not achieved, the committees were disbanded.

The dispute is over the Jordanian claim that the border markers in the 'Arava were shifted one meter east into Jordanian territory after agreement was reached between the experts who marked the border. That was the reason why a ceremony marking the laying of the first border stone near the 'Arava crossing, which was due to take place Sunday, was not held.

Hayim Bi'or adds: Hayim Ramon, Histadrut chairman and Knesset member, and Jacques Neriya, chairman of the Histadrut's International Relations Department, yesterday met with King Husayn and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

The meeting, which lasted 40 minutes, was also attended by Ambassador Shamir and Husayn's adviser Marwan al-Qasim. The meeting dealt with the peace process, including the contacts between Israel and Syria and the Palestinians and their impact on the Israeli-Jordanian peace.

Husayn showed interest in the political situation in Israel, expressed "a personal commitment" to continuing the peace process in the Middle East, and noted the importance he extends to it.

Ramon expressed concern about the Hamas threat to the peace process and to stability in the region, and the need to fight terrorism. Nevertheless, he said that the Israeli public tends to exaggerate Hamas strength and its influence. Ramon said that if there are elections in the territories, he b?lieves 'Arafat will win, and Husayn agreed with that evaluation.

In the meeting between Ramon, Neriya and al-Kabariti they discussed the boycott imposed by the Jordanian trade unions on ties with Israel. The Jordanian minister said that the unions support the government's foreign policy and promised to bring up with the Jordanian unions the subject of ties with Israeli trade unions.

Ambassador Downplays Opposition to Peace

TA2006114195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Haifa this morning, the Jordanian ambassador to Israel, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, played down the impact of parliamentary opposition to the peace treaty with Israel. But in this comment to Sylvia Leif, he took a stronger line on the issue of Jerusalem:

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] Well, the majority of parliament in Jordan has voted for the treaty with Israel, and therefore while there is opposition to the treaty — as is the case in any democratic country — we still feel that the majority of Jordanians support the peace treaty. Indeed, parliament itself voted for the treaty with a comfortable majority.

Jordan's position on Jerusalem is very clear, and we have stated it very frankly. We feel that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and should go back to Arab sovereignty. At the same time, when the issue over Jerusalem started, we used our new diplomatic channels with Israel to make clear to the Israeli Government the Jordanian position, and I am glad that the issue has really been partially resolved in this manner. It has really contributed — the reversal of the decision — positively to our relations. [end recording]

Rabin, Peres, Sarid, IDF Officers Tour West Bank

TA2006160595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Major General 'Uzi Dayan and senior Central Command officers toured Samaria and the area north of Jerusalem today.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the tour was conducted in order to examine the plans for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment outside of the Arab towns in the West Bank.

At the start of the tour, the entourage scanned the area from the roof of al-Nabi Samu'il site north of Jerusalem. Afterwards, the party, accompanied by large army and police forces, toured the alleyways of Ramallah and al-Birah and inspected the area around the fence of the settlement of Psagot, which is located next to al-Birah.

The entourage later flew north in helicopters to the areas of Nabulus and Janin. Our correspondent adds that after concluding the tour, the prime minister traveled to Metulla to attend the town's centennial celebrations.

Concern Noted Over U.S. Reevaluation of Aid to PA

TA2006183195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A classified report which reached Jerusalem this evening indicates that the U.S. Congress has decided to reopen the debate on financial aid to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The Congress was slated to endorse the continuation of aid at the end of this month. Officials in Jerusalem expressed concern over the possibility of any holdup in the financial assistance. This move is being led by right-wing Republican congressmen. Over the past few hours, officials in Washington and Jerusalem have been holding telephone consultations on the matter.

Bypass Roads Completion To Delay Transfer of Authority

TA2106062795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A number of bypass roads currently being paved in preparation for the redeployment of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the West Bank will not be ready for another six months. Until then, say Israeli authorities, the Palestinians will not be given authority in those areas. Diplomatic sources say the most problematic areas are Ramallah and Bethlehem. By contrast, roads around Qalqilyah and Tulkarm are already done. The sources say it will be possible to sign an agreement with the Palestinians on the next stage of self-rule by the middle of July. This, only if Yasir 'Arafat agrees to a process that will go into effect in stages.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 21 June adds: "One of the most senior leaders in the West Bank, Sa'id Kan'an, has told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Prime Minister Rabin has decided to delay the IDF evacuation from Tulkarm and Qalqilyah because of their proximity to the Green Line and to the Israeli cities of Netanya and Kefar Sava. Rabin fears terror attacks during the upcoming election year, which could harm the Labor Party."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 21 June carries a live telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid in which Sarid is asked about the discrepancy between the IDF's estimated date of redeployment completion and the government's planned date for elections in the West Bank. Sarid says that some parts of the redeployment will take place before the elections and some after, adding that redeployment in stages is mentioned in the Oslo agreement. He adds: "I agree that we are speaking of a redeployment date that exceeds October-November, but timetables can be cut short if more effort and resources are invested." Sarid further says: "Wherever the bypass road or security arrangements on the roads are not ready, there will be no redeployment there, or only partial redeployment will take place. Wherever it is possible, there will be redeployment."

[Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's "adviser," is also interviewed live by telephone on the same newsreel. He says that "a partial Israeli withdrawal in stages that are not determined in advance" "is unacceptable for the Palestinian side." Al-Tibi further says: "It is impossible to hold elections in one town that has been evacuated by the IDF while there is Israeli military presence in another town, refugee camp, or village."]

Right-Wing Groups Plan Activity in E. Jerusalem

TA2106110595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Right-wing groups, in cooperation with settlers, plan to establish a new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem's Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood in anticipation of 1 July.

Right-wing groups also plan to occupy sometime soon new houses purchased in Silwan in East Jerusalem. A Jewish community has been living in Silwan for several years now. The aim of the two actions is to foil a possible agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Deputy Jerusalem Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir, who actively supports settlement activity in East Jerusalem, yesterday confirmed that "there is an intention to undertake settlement activities."

Levy To Run for Premiership, Explains 'New Path's' Aims

BR2006135995 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 20 Jun 95 p 14

[Interview with David Levy, former deputy prime minister, by Umberto De Giovannangeli on 19 June; place not given: "'Farewell Likud, I Will Save the Lowly" — first two paragraphs are L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] He is the man of the moment in Israel. His photograph features on the front pages of the country's major dailies, and his office at the Knesset is besieged by politicians, the press, and supporters wanting to know and understand what his real intentions are and what will be the outcome of his challenge. His decision to quit the Likud, officially confirmed on

Sunday [18 June], has triggered a political earthquake that, analysts agree, will have a heavy impact on the 1996 general election. Several opinion polls suggest that, if the election were held today, his movement, the "New Path," would win from four to six seats and could thus bring about the defeat of the right-wing candidate, his hated rival Benyamin Netanyabu. The man they are all talking about is David levy. [passage omitted]

In this interview granted to L'UNITA, David Levy explains the reasons for his sensational decision, prefacing them with an announcement; "Yes, I am running for the premiership," and a warning addressed to his main opponent: "Netanyahu's arrogance will cost him dear."

[De Giovannangeli] What are the real reasons that have driven you to break with the Likud?

[Levy] There is no point in hazarding far-fetched "behind-the scenes" reconstructions or setting off in search of some ideological split or other. The reason is perfectly simple and concerns the lack of any room whatsoever for democratic maneuver within the party, which is led not by a secretary, but by a despot, Netanyahu. They have left no stone unturned in the attempt to prevent us from advancing our ideas. The "air" in the Likud, or rather within the restricted leadership group, had become "unfit to breathe" for us, hence the decision, as painful as it was necessary, to leave the party and form a new political movement open to the needs of the weakest members of society, the lowly, those who have the ear of neither the Likud leadership nor the left-wing parties.

[De Giovannangeli] Netanyahu has accused you of playing into the hands of Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Levy] Mud, just mud slung by those who have no other arguments to back them up. Our opponents are trying, and will try more and more, to discredit us. One of the most shameful allegations made against me in the last few days is that of stoking the fires of ethnic and social differences. As if speaking out against the discrimination still suffered by thousands of Sephardic Jews meant fomenting ethnic hate. But posterity will be the judge, and the day of reckoning is already on the calendar: next year's general election.

[De Giovannangeli] What will your movement's policy priorities and social objectives be?

[Levy] Our priority objective, the very purpose of our existence, is to set ourselves up as a symbol of the social struggle. We want to represent the lowly, give them a voice, and plead their cause before the decisionmaking bodies. The people I have in mind are industrial workers, teachers, and young people in search of a job. Israel is a country that has made enormous strides ahead at the economic level and as regards standards of living, but there are many who have not benefited from this social growth. To realize this, all you have to do is visit the outskirts of the cities, speak to the people, and take in their mounting discontent. You see, my dream is to free my Sephardic brethren from an oppression that has lasted a long time, far too long. I have left the Likud to make this "dream" come true, and I am sure that I can do it.

[De Giovannangeli] And what about the foreign policy front, and the peace process with your Arab neighbors in particular?

[Levy] I have been talking about our social mission so far, but without doubt, a movement that wants to carry weight in the political life of Israel cannot ignore the major issues at the center of the international community's interest, and on which the very future of my country hangs. Moreover, I certainly cannot forget that I it was, in my capacity as foreign minister in the government then led by Shamir, who worked to set up the Madrid Peace Conference, which launched the peace process with the Palestinians and the Arab countries. I think we have to restore that original spirit, fostering dialogue, though without reckless "wrenches" that would end up by jeopardizing the security of the state and its citizens. But I would prefer to say no more. After all, this is only the first day after my farewell to the Likud. Putting together a manifesto in all its aspects takes time. But the commitment is there, as is the enthusiasm of those who have opted to follow me in this adventure. But one thing is certain: Our manifesto will not be a honeypot for bees, to be opened at strategic moments to win a few more votes. I intend to present our "plan of action" in the next few weeks, which will set out my vision, not only of Israel, but of the whole of the Middle East. It will be firmly anchored in the fight against every form of social or ethnic discrimination.

[De Giovannangeli] Have you a message to send out to Yitzhak Rabin? In other words, do you regard a government alliance with the Labor Party as out of the question?

[Levy] I have just announced that I am running for prime minister [to be elected by universal suffrage at the next election — L'UNITA editor's note]; I am certainly not running as a anyone else's standard-bearer. I may be the one to seek an electoral deal in a final ballot, but it may also be the other way round. I definitely rule nothing out at this stage. No path is barred.

Minister of State Resigns Over Loss of Powers

MM2006155395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Amman: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Resigns"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AL-HAYAH learned yesterday that Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs, has resigned in protest against what he saw as the "marginalization" of his powers and jurisdiction in the cabinet after a decision by the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution.

According to reliable sources, 'Izz-al-Din submitted his resignation to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir last week following the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution ruling that it was impermissible to delegate the prime minister's powers, which deprived 'Izz-al-Din of a major part of his powers and made his position as minister of state for cabinet affairs practically "pointless."

It is not known whether the prime minister will accept the resignation or suspend it until a final decision is made, which might depend on the possibility of a wider cabinet reshuffle.

Political sources say that 'Izz-al-Din, who had kept out of the political limelight since the formation of the cabinet eight months ago, found it difficult to fit in with the main members of the cabinet, especially Education Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, and also was not in full harmony with the government's internal and foreign policies.

People close to 'Izz-al-Din say that he expressed reservations about the fast pace of normalization with Israel and the government's firmness with the political opposition.

'Izz-al-Din, who is believed to be close to the prime minister, represents a political school which advocates containing the opposition by making concessions commensurate with its standing in the eyes of the public, in line with Western democratic principles.

Parliament Speaker Discusses Domestic Issues

MM2006120395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17-18 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, speaker of the House of Representatives, by Bassam Baddarin in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Baddarin] Some opposition deputies have been accusing you of being always biased in favor of the government, and that you help the passage of all that it wants at the expense of the deputies. What do you say to that?

[Al-Surur] It is the role of the speaker of the House of Representatives to give all currents equal opportunity in the debates and the presentation of views and to favor the view of the majority in the decisions he takes on the various issues. But in matters of general guidelines, the speaker is expected to favor the consensus view among the members of the House. This "favoritism" should not necessarily reflect the convictions of all the members, who might have different and sometimes even conflicting views.

The speakership has adopted decisive positions in numerous matters pertaining to deputies' rights. In this context, you may still recall the public apologies which a number of ministers have had to make.

In the last session, the speakership has recorded several precedents of decisiveness in matters affecting the rights of the honorable deputies which had been unprecedented in the history of the Jordanian parliamentary life. Don't you think that fairness demands that reference should be made to this when talking about the aforementioned accusations?

[Baddarin] But what we are talking about concerns your connection with the government and your siding with it against the will of the deputies.

[Al-Surur] The government? What government? It is the Government of Jordan. When I support some of its positions, this should not be taken to mean that I side with it. My stand as a member of the House of Representatives and as speaker is well known. But my position as speaker requires me to strike a balance among the various currents. Some of the brother members of the opposition should realize that others too have views worthy of respect. But I am sorry to say that there are some people who always criticize for no objective causes, that is they criticize only for the sake of criticizing. This is the easiest thing anyone can do.

[Baddarin] According to the opposition, your support for the government was "clearly evident" in the statement on Jerusalem, which was issued following the emergency meeting held by the House of Representatives to discuss Israel's expropriation of lands in Jerusalem. What do you say to that?

[Al-Surur] That statement was not drafted by the speaker but by a drafting committee formed by the brother deputies for the purpose. However, this does not mean that I, God forbid, "dissasociate myself" from the drafting of the statement. What I have done, however, was to declare truly what the deputies had approved. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] It has been said that the "Jerusalem Statement" was presented in a "distorted" form following pressure from the U.S. Embassy and the Palace.

[Al-Surur] The Jerusalem Statement was part of a political action aimed at achieving a purpose, namely the rescinding of the expropriation decision, and this has been achieved. So I believe that the attitude taken by the Jordanian House of Representatives had been one of the most effective tools of pressure that contributed to the freezing of the land expropriation decision. Furthermore, there were none of the pressures you are talking about on the committee that drafted the statement. This applies too to the Palace, which did not interfere in the question of the statement, neither from far nor from near. The drafting committee met in my office and approved the statement which I then announced. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] The speakership of the House of Representatives has been insisting on the convocation of an "emergency" session to renew [as published; presumably should read "lift"] the boycott laws which [the lifting of the laws] has been rejected by the people. What is your position toward these laws?

[Al-Surur] There are clear and constitutionally defined conduits for the promulgation of any law from the stage of being a draft law to the stage of its enactment by royal decree. These conduits are subject to the convictions and influences of the legislative authority. I cannot think of any law to this day that has been promulgated unanimously, rather than on a majority basis. This means that the objective conditions indicate that the deputies' wills could not rally together for once on any law. The brother deputies have the right to express their views during the consideration of any law lifting the boycott. For this law belongs to the House irrespective of the result.

[Baddarin] They say that the lifting of the boycott on Israel will mean a sellout of Jordan. What do you say about that?

[Al-Surur] We must not try to outdo each other with respect to the care for the homeland and its selling out or not. For all of us are anxious to preserve the homeland and to perform our duties toward it. All of us have our own histories and these could easily show whether or not a person has been anxious to preserve his homeland. In any case, we must await the say of the House of Representatives, which it has not expressed yet.

[Baddarin] All are agreed that there are indications of the recession of democracy. Do you accept that there is such a recession? What are the signs of this recession in your view?

[Al-Surur] We must admit that there were certain excesses by some responsible officials in the executive authority, resulting from decisions which do not fully comprehend the true democracy we are living through. But these excessive actions should be seen in perspective. We are the ones who have the authority to monitor the actions of the executive authority and to deal with these excessive actions. But these excesses do not mean that there is a retraction from democracy which has become a framework and a course for all Jordanians and has won the respect and admiration of the Arab region and the world at large.

There is an attack on democracy by certain groups in the country. These are groups who had lost their privileges through the spread of democracy. So they have found no place for themselves in this democratic climate and have considered it too much for this homeland to have new youthful leaderships emerging as a result of the democratic course, and thus they embarked on an offensive against democracy from within in a manner which tries to camouflage their conflict with the democratic concept for fear of denunciation by everyone else. So they began to talk about the recession and the dwindling of democracy and about their desire for a greater measure of democracy to the extent of causing a democratic relapse, a matter which is sought by these groups which have surprised us by their sudden call for greater democracy.

[Baddarin] Do you think the government is coherent in its present form?

[Al-Surur] The government? What do you mean by the government? Inside the Council of Ministers is one thing and outside it is another. Internally, there should be dialogues, discussions, and contradictory views leading in the end to sound decisions be it unanimously or by a majority vote. This is the democratic course that should prevail. But once a decision has been taken, the entire ministerial team should bear responsibility for it, and consequently the ministerial team would be responsible for its negative and positive results and this is a constitutional as well as a moral responsibility. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] Are there any positive relations between the Jordanian House of Representatives and the Palestine National Council?

[Al-Surur] Our relations with the Palestine National Council are very positive and there are constant and continuous contacts between us at all times. We would like to hold a coordination meeting between the speakership of the Jordanian House of Representatives and the Palestine National Council which has its headquarters in Amman at present. [passage omitted]

Shubaylat Interviewed on Domestic Issues, Iraq

JN1506165995 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 17-23 Jun 95 pp 6, 21

[Interview with Layth Shubaylat, former member of the House of Representatives and president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, by unidentified correspondent; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [SHIHAN] You called for besieging Jordan, together with Iraq, so that we will starve with the kinsfolk there. Do you know that what we have in our stores will be sufficient for three days only?

[Shubaylat] I wrote an article in SHIHAN on this issue under the headline "Lifting Official Jordanian Siege of Iraq Is King Husayn's Road for Arab Unity." Unity should be maintained in ups and downs. It is a shame to eat, drink, sleep happily, and enjoy medical services while 20 million Iraqis are being assassinated, knowing that the Iraqis are certainly more honorable than me, that the leadership of those Iraqis pleased the believers when it shelled Tel Aviv, and that the entire Iraqi people made sacrifices for the sake of Arabism and Islam. If what we have in our stores is sufficient for three days the stores of the glorious Iraqis have been depleted four years ago.

As I advised the higher Jordanian leadership, lifting the siege of Iraq would result in besieging Iraq, and besieging Jordan will automatically unite it with Iraq and with the Palestinian intifadah. Thus, the three states will unite in jihad and sacrifice.

However, if our objective is to live a prosperous life at any price then what a bad life is the one whose price will be our country's independence and our humiliation before the Americans, the Zionists, and Masons. Our people will not even enjoy this life because the benefits of the assistance are plundered before they even reach the people who will ultimately only harvest debts.

We prefer to starve with the Iraqis and Palestinians, safeguarding our constants and pan-Arab and Islamic pride than to be full under the feet of the Zionists and imperialists who do not allow us to get hard currency except from tourism. In the final analysis, tourism in this humiliating form is a relinquishment of everything beautiful which must be safeguarded by the free glorious men. [passage omitted]

[SHIHAN] Don't you believe that in your recent lecture you have broken the taboos which are recognized by the National Charter and the Constitution?

[Shubaylat] If we want to talk about taboos, I will say that everyone of us has his own taboos. Anyone who claims that there is anything holy other than God and the homeland cheats his nation and conscience. Every official in this homeland had taken the constitutional oath before the side entrusted with taking him to account. The executive branch has exceeded the pan-Arab and Islamic constants, something which necessitated an appropriate reply. [passage omitted]

[SHIHAN] It is said that when you were released in accordance with a royal amnesty after you were convicted in the al-Nafir case you have admitted the crime, after which you were pardoned. This means that you have practically conspired against the homeland?

[Shubaylat] Everyone knows that I have made no statement. Everyone knows that the al-Nafir case was fabricated against me and my colleague. This is because, as it is said, I have broken the taboos by taking officials to account when I was head of the House of Representatives' committee investigating corruption cases. I used to insist, in writing, on bringing some important files. This was one of the reasons behind action against me. This is in addition to the speech in which I withheld confidence from al-Sharif Zayd cabinet. The speech included a constitutional statement indicating that the regime has two pillars against which no one should act; namely, the throne and the parliament. I explained that several actions were carried out against the parliament with the objective of restoring its position as a first pillar of the regime supported by the second pillar, the throne institution. The repeated claims that I have conspired against the homeland is an attempt to get butter out of water.

After I was released from prison I submitted a report to the House of Representatives. I read the report in the presence of the cabinet. In this report, I explained all the fabrications which took place and called for taking those responsible to account. However, the government did not say anything, and the deputies said: "We are satisfied that you have left prison sound and safe, and there is no need for taking anyone to account." I make the comprehensive report, the documents, and the data available to you. [passage omitted]

[SHIHAN] Are you not afraid that what happened to you in the al-Nafir case might be repeated, or that something else, like liquidation, may take place?

[Shubaylat] Praise be to God, the king of kings, in whose hands everything rests, I have never been more reassured. All this is thanks to God, who reassures whomever he wants and throws fear in the hearts of whomever he wants.

Afraid? No. Anything expected? Very probable. I have been threatened more than once since the case. However, nobody goes into such a responsibility without knowing that anything is possible. Nothing can happen to me without God's will. Every good thing that happens to men is from God and any calamity that may afflict them is ordained by God.

God orders us to be good-willed. In fact, I am feeling more reassured after a reference was made to me at the press meeting at the Royal Court. I considered that a royal gesture which will protect me from whoever may consider going beyond the bounds of intellectual differences, for such a behavior may incriminate the government.

[SHIHAN] Do you believe that the Jordanian Government has entered a new phase in dealing with the opposition?

[Shubaylat] Undoubtedly, the assassination of Mahmud Khalifah al-'Awamilah [a Jordanian citizen killed recently in a shoot-out with Jordanian security men in Amman], who used to send public advice [to officials] through faxes, cables, and complaints, is a new turning point in the history of this country. Unless the society adopts a firm stand against this orientation, the social leaders would thus be contributing to pushing Jordan into an era of death squads. [passage omitted] The government should resign immediately after the authorities' persistence in injustice in its era.

[SHIHAN] You are a constant member of the opposition. In your opinion, what is the alternative?

[Shubaylat] The alternative is a national government to save us from the [peace] treaty. We should come into cohesion with the Arab nation. While it is known that all the doors of the Arab nation are closed to this cohesion, Iraq, which is bleeding, is looking forward to this cohesion. Such a cohesion will return to the intifadah in Palestine to its glorious days and will make the Arab nation move in the right direction instead of descending.

[SHIHAN] Do you not think that you are harming the interests of the engineering profession and engineers in Jordan by your insistence on banning individual dealing with Israel? How will the situation be like in light of this boycott, knowing that the Israelis are working to break it?

[Shubaylat] The boycott is a unanimous decision adopted by the general assembly. It is part of the election programs of all those who took part in the elections, whether they won or lost. This issue is agreed upon. The answer is that the engineers say that they prefer hunger to humiliation. The disasters began to afflict our nation only after it gave bread precedence over its principles. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Figure on 'Stronger' Islamic Resistance

NC2106080795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sayyid 'Ammar al-Musawi, deputy director of Hizballah's political bureau, has stated that the enemy leaders know very well that confronting the Islamic Resistance will be bloody and that the enemy has no means to overcome this resistance.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, Sayyid al-Musawi said that whenever the enemy tries to tell its public that resistance operations in south Lebanon are about to end, he is surprised to discover that these operations are, on the contrary, growing stronger.

He said the recent resistance actions in the south are clearly a reaction to U.S.-sponsored rumors that resistance operations will soon end.

'Ammar al-Musawi said that recent Zionist threats are designed to conceal low morale in the ranks of the enemy troops and their puppet militia allies.

Commenting on the U.S. attack against Hizballah, he said that the United States is trying to give the impression that there is progress in the Arab-Zionist political settlement. He pointed out that the United States has tried to bolster this impression and suggest to the world that a political settlement is imminent by starting rumors that Hizballah is willing to cast down its resistance weapons.

Al-Musawi said that the U.S. declarations are worthless and said that the Islamic Resistance is in its best position to continue resisting the Zionist entity.

Regarding the fact that Hizballah is not being given an opportunity to participate in Lebanese political processes, he said Hizballah represents a large segment of the Lebanese people and draws its political role from the struggle of its people and the blood of its martyrs. He added that Hizballah is not waiting for anyone to give it a political role.

He remarked that the United States has been trying to restore a military balance between the resistance and the army of the agent Antoine Lahd [South Lebanese Army], which is collapsing under the strugglers' blows.

On the U.S.-started rumors, Sayyid 'Ammar al-Musawi said:

[Begin recording] Whenever the Israeli enemy and the United States predict that resistance operations are about to stop, they are surprised to see that the resistance is increasing, growing stronger, and its blows are becoming more accurate and more effective. The recent threats are designed to conceal the deteriorating morale among the enemy troops and the agent militia. [end recording]

'Awn To 'Lead Resistance' When Exile Ends in Oct

MM1906120495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by 'Ali al-Ruzz: 'Awn Tells AL-HAYAH: "I Will Return to Lebanon After 13 October To Lead Resistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — General Michel 'Awn told AL-HAYAH yesterday that he intends to return to Lebanon after 13 October "to lead the resistance from there." He said that the "period of the [exile] agreement, which was drawn up arbitrarily without us having anything to do with it, expires on that date because I moved to French territory (the embassy in Lebanon) on 13 October 1990."

'Awn stressed that he will return "at any moment after 13 October next to lead peaceful, passive, democratic resistance against all occupations in Lebanon through popular and free moves and honest referenda." He added that those "who usurped power could prevent me or even kill me, but I depend on the Lebanese people to guarantee my safety."

On the effect his decision would have on the 'Awn trend supporters in Lebanon, he said: "Those who belong to the 'Awn trend do not carry guns and do not plant explosives. They do not even have the right to engage in political activity. I do not believe any harm will come to them. When I made my decision I took into consideration all possible eventualities and reactions."

Asked what if the Lebanese and French authorities told him that the period expires one year from now and not this coming fall, 'Awn replied: "France is free to decide what it likes, but I know arithmetic. The (exile) agreement was imposed on me at the request of (President Ilyas) al-Hirawi and the fait accompli government in November 1990. My going to the French Embassy, which is considered French territory, was a condition for the cease-fire and a part of the dictated agreement. I remind everyone of the clear statements of Rene Ala [as transliterated], the former French ambassador in Beirut, in this connection and of the French documents and files confirming that."

Did he coordinate with any foreign parties about his return? 'Awn replied: "I do not wish to talk about that matter. Those concerned are free to say what they like."

Asked if he coordinated with the Lebanese opposition, he replied: "There is no such thing as opposition with the occupation's approval. Opposition under the umbrella of the occupation means loyalty to it. Real opposition means seeking liberation of the territory."

On the opposition represented by Dr. Albert Mukhaybar, the Liberal Party, and the supporters of the Maronite patriarch, 'Awn said: "No consultations were held with them. I made my decision unilaterally because I am the one responsible for its results and political and security implications, but they will certainly welcome this step."

Would he seek to change what has been achieved so far under the national accord agreement? He said: "What has been achieved is an illusion, and an illegitimate one at that. Any agreement, whether it was imposed on the people or not, is open to change by peaceful and democratic means. All peoples have a right to change any agreement through referenda and amendment."

Would his return be a prelude to participation in the coming parliamentary elections? He replied: "Any future moves we make would be based in the resolutions of the national conference we held in Paris, and I challenge any party in Lebanon to come up with anything better or more just. That means the formation of a transitional government representing all trends to oversee the withdrawals, sponsor the peace agreement, and hold new elections in accordance with a new law under UN supervision."

On the question of the funds the state says are in his possession (about $30 million), 'Awn said: "If I return to Lebanon I will open their [government officials] files and expose the magnitude of the funds they embezzled from the state and how everyone accumulated wealth while in government. I challenge them to prove that even one piaster in my private accounts belongs to the state or is part of the announced donations for the Army. These donations were sent to the Army command and remained there." He said that he would file all kinds of law suits "for defamation against me and the plunder and destruction of my property and the property of my colleagues as well as public property."

Fadlallah on Iran-Egypt Ties, Syria, Peace

NC2006175695 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jun 95 p 12

[Interview with "Lebanese scholar" Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by unidentified correspondent in Lebanon; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] Is there any hope that the Arab countries will cooperate in combating the effects of the compromise, the so- called normalization of relations, with the Zionist regime?

[Fadlallah] Even if Israel is able to enter the Arab world after signing the accord on peace and compromise, the Arab world has resources, brains, and economic capabilities that can guard against the influence and economic onslaught of Israel.

Thus, Israel cannot simply enter the Arab world by itself, as this would cause a clash with other countries who consider the Arab world a market for their products, technology, and weaponry.

In view of this, I imagine that in principle the Arab world is perfectly capable of protecting itself from Israel's economic threat. If it feels that it is cornered by Israel, the Arab world will resist it by all possible means. It is also possible that it may benefit from the conflict of interests and clashes among the economies of Europe, the United States, Israel, and Japan.

[ETTELA'AT] Is there any prospect for cooperation between Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the Iran's opposition to the effects of the compromise in the region?

[Fadlallah] The relations between the Arabs and Iran vary due to certain inherent differences among the Arab countries. Syria has strategic relations with Iran because Iran understands the kind of pressure being exerted on Syria. Conversely, Syria realizes the political lines and principles to which Tehran adheres. Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran will have wonderfully cordial relations even after a peace accord.

It is true that Iran rejects the peace accord, but it is aware that if it is possible to shun the peace accord, Syria will do so. This is because the pressures it is subject to are clearly evident to the Arab world, as are the the realities of the U.S. and Israeli pressure.

However, as for the other Arab countries, including the Persian Gulf countries, one can say that they do not want to have poor relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as this would have adverse repercussions for them and cause difficulties. This could potentially harm their interests, because Iran is the biggest country in the Persian Gulf, with a coastline of 1,000 kilometers. There is no Arab country in the Persian Gulf with such a long coastline. Therefore they want good relations with Iran.

On the other hand, the Persian Gulf littoral countries had ancient historical relations with Iran even before the appearance of the current realities in the region. The only problem with regard to this situation is that the Persian Gulf littoral countries have organic [preceding word in English] political relations with the United States. Thus, the relations between the regional Arab countries and Iran is linked to U.S.-Iranian relations.

That is why whenever the United States exerts pressure on Iran, the other Persian Gulf littoral countries naturally follow the U.S. lead. We have seen this happen with the UAE's inflaming of the issue of the three islands. The clarifications of the Saudi and Bahraini officials can be mentioned in this context.

It is obvious that Iran's very strong opposition to peace with Israel and its assistance to and solidarity with the strugglers in Palestine and Lebanon has aroused the ire of the United States and Israel and prompted them to oppose Iran. Thus, the United States pressures Iran economically, politically, and with propaganda in order to distract Iran and prevent it from taking any action against Israeli and U.S. plans in the region.

As for the other Arab countries, I believe that Yemen would not play a very negative or conspicuous role in this game of roulette and will act with political moderation unless some unpredictable events result from American policies.

The Egyptian Government fears Iran and is interested in forging relations with it. However, this issue (forging of reciprocal relations) requires precision and subtlety and is a serious task. In my opinion, this is a great opportunity for forging cordial relations, even though we reject the relations between Israel and Egypt and condemn the Egyptian government's pressure on the Islamists.

However, establishing normal reciprocal relations between Egypt and Iran is separate from the shaping and development of other important issues in the Islamic and Arab worlds. This is because regardless of all else, Egypt is one of the strongest Arab, Islamic, and African governments.

I do not say Iran should abandon its bases and principles, but it can work to normalize relations with Egypt as a natural political move. Ties between Iran and Egypt were severed due to Egypt's forging of relations with Israel. But if all the Arab countries are following suit, can Iran boycott all the Arabs and sever relations with them? This is not possible. Therefore, the situation in Egypt is the same as that of any other Arab country.

Iran did not sever relations with Jordan when it signed a peace accord with Israel; and the Iranian Embassy in Jordan continues to function. Thus, I believe that there is a way out of the current impasse and difficulties in Iranian-Egyptian relations.

With regard to Iran's relations with the Arab Maghreb, (North Africa) there are serious problems; there has been no effective change in the situation. This is because Algeria has accused Iran of being behind the activities of the Islamic Salvation Front. Therefore, relations with Algeria are beset by hindrances and problems. Algeria is well aware that even though Iran encourages Islamic movements, it does not interfere in its affairs in any way.

In any case, I believe that there are no major problems in relations between Iran and other Arab countries such as Libya, Morocco, and Tunis; and there will not even be any problems with Algeria once peace is restored.

In my opinion relations between Iran and the Arab countries will not change much after the establishment of peace in the region, but will continue at the present level, more or less. However, it appears that after peace, the United States will escalate its blockade of and pressure on Iran.

I have doubt the possibility of a U.S. military attack on Iran because the United States knows very well that it would suffer enormous losses in any attack on Iran, which would be very different from the war with Iraq. In my opinion, the United States uses all kinds of domestic and foreign ploys to exert pressure on Iran and increase its arms embargo on it. Therefore, the United States will step up its blockade of Iran. Israel might even take action against Iran's nuclear reactor similar to its attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and bomb it, of course waiting until after it is completed and has been put into operation with the help of Russia and the PRC.

[ETTELA'AT] Can it be said that while there are extensive efforts underway to revive the peace talks? On the other hand, are there certain processes at work to disrupt Iran's relations with the Arab countries?

[Fadlallah] Naturally, but we do not believe that they can disrupt Iran's relations with the Arab countries unless some basic differences of principle emerge. Iran faces danger from two Arab quarters: The first is from the Arab countries of the southern Persian Gulf, which could be drawn into the dispute with the shaykhdoms of the United Arab Emirates, who could exaggerate this issue in fan its flames.

The second danger is more serious: There could be a recurrence of the Iraq conflict if the situation and circumstances recur. It is obvious that there are numerous possibilities for the situation in Iraq. Therefore, regarding Iran, the apprehension persists that it will experience constant political and security conflicts with the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms, acting under the umbrella of the United States. This is especially true since these countries have already signed security pacts and accords with European countries, the United States, and Russia. As for Iraq, we can say that it will not be long before it will confirms its intentions to forge relations with the West. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What is your analysis of the current situation in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] Present day Lebanon exists in a vacuum and a state of uncertainty; and as a result, the determination and implementation of any firm measures or strategic stances cannot be expected. Its objective is to keep the people preoccupied with peripheral issues and economic problems, leaving it to Syria to direct the peace talks and process; and when the fateful and principled accords are signed with Israel, Lebanon will remain in a secondary position.

Therefore, Lebanon's current status quo is lackluster, devoid of any principles or basis. In other words, in this phase the people are so concerned with trivialities that they are unable to grapple with the larger issues. If there were no Islamic Resistance in Lebanon to oppose Israel and if Syria was not committed to having Lebanon play its role alongside the Islamic Resistance, Lebanon would be totally bereft of any kind of role.

It is the Islamic Resistance that has tackled Israel and thus given Lebanon a tangible presence on the international scene. That is why the people of the world do not forget Lebanon and the negative U.S. stance here whenever there is a mention of Israel.

Thus, Lebanon at present does not genuinely reflect the actual situation, but I believe that after the signing of a peace accord, it will be allocated a greater role. This is because the strategy of the West and the United States is based on using Lebanon as a model of a free and open Arab country that can clear the path to the rest of the Arab world, because Lebanon is already considered the East's window on the West. Conversely, the West intends to make it its window on the East. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What is your view of Shiite society in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] The power of the Shiites in Lebanon merits attention, as it is a major cultural, political and economic reality. The problem with regard to the Lebanese Shiites is that they have not merged into one sect. As a result, they have not evolved into an entity inside Lebanon with a specific strategy, as is the case with the other sects.

Thus, for various reasons, including the lack of a broader calculated plan that reflects Shiite reality, the Shiites have diverged and become divided on certain issues. That is why this sect is in a weak position despite certain positions and portfolios that some prominent Shiite figures hold and in which they are displaying their talents.

However, in general the Shiite sect in Lebanon needs a prolonged period of time to reach a certain level of power and show its political prowess. And on this basis, its members should act in a manner that lets them merge into the heterogeneous fabric of Lebanese society. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Leaves for Damascus

NC2006194095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus, where he met with Syrian Vice President Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They reviewed the latest developments in the peace process in the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon in light of the continuing Israeli acts of aggression against the south. He is scheduled to return to Beirut later tonight.

Israel Urged To Enhance 'Atmosphere of Optimism'

JN2106090095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Cornerstone of Peace," TISHRIN says political observers and those who follow developments of the peace process in the region agree that Syria's position is the cornerstone for realizing a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN adds: Syria's position, with all the respect and appreciation it enjoys, is based on full commitment to the principles and conditions of peace and honestly responds to all peace requirements. Therefore, dealing with the constants and principles of the Syrian position on the peace process is the only way to a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN says: Although an understanding was reached on the principles of security arrangements with Israel under U.S. patronage and supervision, Syria was not taken in by the atmosphere the Israelis attempted to fabricate and exploit through contradictory statements. Peace for Syria is a strategic option and Syria's strategy is based on what is dictated by national and pan-Arab considerations represented in ending the occupation and restoring rights. Therefore, Israel found itself facing the test of whether it wants peace or not.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: While emphasizing the continuation of its efforts, Syria is once again presenting a real opportunity for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace on solid grounds.

In an editorial entitled "Who Fears Peace?" AL-BA'TH says: The world expects the Israeli leadership to be aware of the danger of promoting the use of force, and to accept the fact that peace is the outright contradiction of the policy of aggression and expansion.

AL-BA'TH adds: The world, which is waiting for a quick Israeli response to the international aspiration for a comprehensive and just peace in the region, no longer tolerates the nonsensical settler leaders' talk about their old dream or Rabin and his companions' concerns regarding the forthcoming elections.

AL-BA'TH says: To think that treading the road of peace will threaten the Rabin government means that the Israeli society is seeking the opposite of peace and rejecting regional security, stability, and peace.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the peace sought by Syria, together with the entire world, should be just and comprehensive and should ensure the return of rights to their owners. Any circumvention of this principle means evasion of the peace requirements.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Peace is the only way for the Israelis. There can be no guarantees through aggression and there can be no peace with an aggressor. Will the Israeli leaders be convinced that peace is peace and security cannot be imposed by aggression or illusionary ideas?

In its editorial under the title of "The Decision and the Test," AL-THAWRAH says the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon is overshadowing the optimistic atmosphere that followed the understanding reached on security arrangements between Syria and Israel.

AL-THAWRAH says the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are inseparable, and withdrawal from southern Lebanon is no less important for Syria than withdrawal from the Golan. It adds: The continuation of shelling and daily attacks on southern Lebanon largely conflict with goodwill gestures represented in promoting a calm atmosphere away from military escalation which poses the most serious threats.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Peace is an indivisible whole. Israel is demanded more than ever before to show goodwill, restrain its actions, and alter its statements in a manner that would confirm the credibility of its peace decision.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: We will have to wait for the results of the Washington meeting between military and political experts later this month before we can judge the credibility of the Israeli intentions. In the meantime, restraining the Israeli actions and calming the situation in southern Lebanon will enhance the atmosphere of optimism. Peace is the only guarantee for security and stability in the entire region.

Talks 'Worthless' Without Full Israeli Withdrawal

JN2006142795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The wealthiest industrialized world nations, which have just concluded their summit in Halifax, have stressed the need to do everything possible to promote the Middle East peace process. EU ministers and figures are touring the region to remove the hurdles blocking the peace process and to urge the concerned parties to make the progress aspired to by the world, because the Arab-Israeli conflict affects the interests of several world states through its consequences and repercussions.

Since the launch of the peace initiative, Syria has made it clear that for peace to hold and endure in the Middle East, it has to be just and comprehensive. By justice ['adalah], Syria meant Israel's withdrawal from all the territories it occupied in 1967, or 1982. By comprehensiveness [al-shumuliyah], it meant the resolution of all aspects of the conflict and the restoration of the rights to their owners on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which have thus far remained ink on paper, because the international community has remained passive and has failed to ensure the implementation of these resolutions, and also because Israel has constantly evaded the requirements enshrined in these resolutions, chief among which is complete withdrawal.

Throughout the protracted Washington talks, Syria's position remained unchanged. Syria, which has made immense efforts to render international efforts a success, strongly believes that any unfair solution in the region cannot stand the test of time. For if it fails to vindicate the Arabs' just rights and ensure the return of their territories, peace will be rejected by the broad masses.

Israel has managed to drag some sides into inequitable deals that were soon met with strong opposition. By contrast, throughout the talks with Israel, Syria has stuck to the principles of equitability [takafu'] and evenness [ta'adul]. And thus, it has been possible to reach agreement on the broad concepts or outlines of the security arrangements, which will be developed into maps and realities on the ground by military experts from both sides in Washington. Nonetheless, what has been achieved thus far, or could be achieved over the next few weeks or months will become worthless unless Israel commits itself to complete withdrawal from the Golan up to the 4 June 1967 borders. For Syria cannot accept anything short of the complete return of the Golan to the motherland, the return of the displaced Golan residents and their families and children to their lands, and the restoration of their property. This necessarily requires the dismantlement of settlements as well as withdrawal from the Golan. A similar complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon is required. Moreover, the daily Israeli attacks on fraternal Lebanon must be halted so that the displaced Lebanese and squatters may be able to return home.

The influential members of the international community, which look forward to a stable peace in the Middle East, cannot overlook these facts. For a long time, Israeli parties have been outbidding each other, using settlement expansion and land confiscations as vehicles to promote their selfish interests. A halt to all forms of settlement activities and returning the occupied territories to their owners are two basic prerequisites of peace; and this requires a substantial change in the policies Israel has pursued since 1948. The influential members of the international community can help bring about such change by underlining the components of just and comprehensive peace, by highlighting the need to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and by telling Israel that it needs to uphold the law.

Based on the statements made by Israeli officials, they appear not to have thus far made up their mind with regard to the choice between accepting peace and its requirements on the one hand and expansion and its consequences. There are some Israeli officials who believe that they can have it both ways: That is, to achieve peace with the Arabs and retain control of parts of their territory at the same time. By so doing, they are making a grave mistake that could reflect negatively on the overall peace process. Syria has repeatedly announced that it will not abandon a single inch of its territory. Syria means what it says and honors the pledges it makes. It is serious about the efforts to achieve a just and genuine peace that would ensure security and stability and put an end to the state of tension, danger, and aggression.

Report on Israeli Activities in Golan Given to UN

JN2006171995

[Editorial Report] Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic on 29 May publishes on page eight a 2,000-word article by correspondent Muhammad Ghalib Husayn on the UN fact-finding commission's recent visit to al-Qunaytirah Governorate to investigate Israeli practices in the occupied Golan Heights. The paper says that the commission, headed by Sri Lankan Ambassador Leonard de Silva, was received by Governor Walid al-Buz, who briefed it on "Israel's aggressive practices" against the Golan inhabitants in the villages of Majdal Shams, Mas'adah, Buq'ata, 'Ayn Qunyah, and al-Fajr. The paper says the governor also presented the commission with a written report on these practices and expressed the governorate's readiness to fully cooperate in order to facilitate the commission's work. The paper adds that there were also testimonies by private individuals on Israel's "inhumane policy there." The paper goes on to note that the UN special commission, which was formed in 1968 to investigate Israel's human rights record, has so far submitted 26 annual reports on its findings, the last being the one which was submitted on 26 August 1994.

The paper cites the governorate's report to the UN commission as saying that since June 1967, Israel has expelled 500,000 Syrians from the Golan who now reside in the Syrian hinterland and "it continues to exercise all forms of pressure, terrorism, and oppression which conflict with the most fundamental principles of international law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Occupied Territories." The paper also cites from the governorate's report examples of these "inhumane practices" as follows:

1. In July 1994, the Israeli occupation authorities detained the following residents from Majdal Shams on the charge of resisting the occupation and chalking hostile graffiti on walls: Husayn Sulayman Rumiyah, Sadiq al-Qadamani, Samir Muhammad Jamil al-Sayyid Ahmad, Hisham Muhammad Jamil al-Sayyid Ahmad, Ihsan Mahmud Fakhr al-Din, Iyad 'Alam al-Din Maddah, Akram Milhim Mahmud, Maymun Sulayman al-Maqat, Nabil Sulayman al-Khatir, Mahir Jamil Abu-Salih, Tawfiq Salman Mar'i, Mi'dad Jamil Khatir, and Faraj Sulayman al-Maqat.

2. The following Syrian citizens from the occupied Golan are still detained in Israeli prisons: Bishr Sulayman Ahmad al-Maqat, 'Asim Mahmud As'ad al-Waliy, Hayil Husayn Ahmad Abu-Zayd, Saytan Nimr Nimr al-Waliy, Sidqi Sulayman Ahmad al-Maqat, Ayman Hayil Nu'man Abu-Jabal, Ziyad 'Arif Husayn Abu-Jabal, Midhat Salih Mahmud al-Salih, 'Ismat Mahmud Mahmud al-Maqat, 'Isam Jamil Hamad Abu-Zayd, Muti' Wahbah Husayn Abu-Salih, Kanj Isma'il Kanj Abu-Salih, Malik Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Salih, Bassam Sulayman Husayn Khatir, Faris Hayil Faris al-Sha'ir, and Samir Muhammad al-Sayyid Ahmad.

3. Detainees "are suffering from poor health conditions and chronic diseases despite attempts by their families and relatives to treat them at their own expense." The detainees "went on hunger strike more than once to protest maltreatment and poor health conditions. The last hunger strike was earlier this year." 'Asim Mahmud As'ad al-Waliy sustained a broken arm during interrogation, according to the report.

4. The occupation authorities have set up military areas, which incorporate such villages as Bayt al-Tall near Majdal Shams, and have also planted mines. A child named Salim Mizyid Abu-Salih was injured in a mine explosion in February 1995, according to the report.

5. The occupation authorities have seized water sources, such as Marj al-Ya'furi well, al-Mushayrifah Spring, and al-Sahlah water wells in Mas'adah, channeling the water to Israeli settlements. They also confiscated water from Lake Mas'adah.

6. The occupation authorities have continued to flesh out settlements and build new ones.

7. The occupation authorities levy taxes on residences, work places, and fields and charge exorbitant taxes on agricultural products.

8. The occupation authorities have replaced the Syrian school curricula with an Israeli curricula, Hebrew, and Jewish history "to weaken the national and pan-Arab affiliation of the upcoming Arab generations." They have also prevented Arab students from continuing their higher studies in Syria.

Afghanistan

Tehran Aid Pledge Called Sign of Improved Ties

LD1806120695 Tehran IRNA in English
1134 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 18, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran has pledged to provide Kabul with a 50 million dollar grant for reconstruction of that country, an Afghan weekly reported in its latest issue.

The Kabul-based weekly 'SOBH-E-OMMID' wrote that over the past few months there has been remarkable improvement in Tehran-Kabul ties as is evident in Iran's pledge of assistance to Afghanistan.

Head of the Afghan Ministry of Telecommunications announced last Friday [17 June] that the Islamic Republic of Iran has allocated dlrs. six million for rebuilding of telecommunication system in Kabul.

BAKHTAR Seeks Closer Ties With Iranian Press

LD1906150795 Tehran IRNA in English
0932 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 19, IRNA — Head of Afghanistan's state-run news agency BAKHTAR here Sunday [18 June] called for further cultural and information cooperation with the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA).

In a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador Gholam Reza Haddadi the Afghan official, Hafizollah Mansur, said that cooperation between Muslims and non-aligned states news agencies as well as exchange of information among them was one of the most urgent means to fight against news imperialism and cultural assault.

The Afghan official said that cooperation between BAKHTAR and the two Iranian news organizations (IRNA and the Central News Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting) would be a major step in campaign against one-way flow of information in the region given common religious and historical points between the two countries.

In reply Haddadi underlined the need for expansion of cultural and news cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan and hoped that Hafizollah Mansur would visit Iran in a near future to discuss promotion of bilateral cooperation in related fields with Iranian officials.

The IRNA representative in Kabul was also present in the meeting.

Minister Predicts Extension of Cease-Fire

BK2006120695 Hong Kong AFP in English
1145 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jun 20 (AFP) — A brief unofficial ceasefire between forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and their rivals, the Taleban religious movement, is expected to hold, a senior government official said Tuesday [20 June].

"This ceasefire is likely to be extended," Minister of Frontier Affairs Sidiq Chakari told AFP.

A ten-day official ceasefire between the two warring factions which expired Sunday was unofficially extended for a 24-hour period Monday, Chakari said.

He said although there was an understanding to maintain it for an indefinite period beginning Tuesday, the two sides were yet to agree on face-to-face talks.

"The Taleban proposed indirect talks for a couple of days until there is a favourable atmosphere for direct negotiations," Chakari said.

The Taleban apparently wish to test the sincerity of the pro-Rabbani side, which, analysts concur, holds the military advantage in this three-month-long conflict in and around Kabul.

However, Chakari said the pro-Rabbani camp preferred to have direct talks with Taleban, which may be a gambit to minimise the influence of Pakistan.

Currently the intermediary between the Taliban and pro-Rabbani forces is a Pakistani religious party leader, Mohammad Khan Sherani, who on Monday received 20 Taleban prisoners-of-war released by the State Security Department in Kabul as a gesture of goodwill.

A total of 86 Taleban prisoners of war have now been released by pro-Rabbani forces.

Of these, 31 were handed over to Sherani while the 55 others were released by Rabbani's Pushtun ally, Ittihad-i-Islami faction leader Rasool Sayyaf, Chakari said.

No hostilities were reported between the Taleban and pro-Rabbani forces on the two frontlines where they face each other — to the south, and to the west of Kabul.

The Taleban militia, comprising religious school students, burst on the scene in November last year when they gained control of a third of Afghanistan from mojahedin groups.

However, they were defeated by the Presidential forces under the command of ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud when they reached the gates of Kabul in March this year.

The students-led militia has since suffered several setbacks in southern and western Afghan regions.

Reportage on Clashes Between HCC, Rabbani Forces

Kabul Forces Reportedly 'Crushed'

LD1906182095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The last remnants of the Kabul administration have been crushed by the High Coordination Council forces [HCC] in Sang Charak district, Jowzjan province. Quoting a responsible source of the HCC in Jowzjan province, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported to us that recently a number of the Kabul administration supporters, who disrupted the tranquil life of the people of Sang Charak, have been crushed by the HCC forces and the area has been purged of them. In the course of the clearing-up operation a number of the Kabul administration's armed men were killed and injured and a quantity of their arms and ammunition was captured.

According to another report, the HCC forces have captured a number of the Kabul administration's fortified positions in the Aliabad sub-district, Konduz province, and have taken a number of the administration's armed men prisoner.

Another report says that the HCC forces have moved many kilometers towards southern Salang, and have inflicted heavy casualties on the Kabul administration warmongers.

'Warmongers' Attack Said Repulsed

LD2006174895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] forces last night repulsed an attack by the Kabul administration's warmongers in Daqdara in Samangan province. A responsible HCC military source told our correspondent that in the course of this unsuccessful attack 15 armed men of the Supervisory Council were killed and (?13) others injured.

According to another report in the course of their clearing up operation in Samangan province, the HCC forces have cleared the villages [words indistinct] of the Kabul administration's armed men. The report adds that 140 supporters of the Supervisory Council along with their arms and ammunition have been captured.

Radio Reports Release of More Taleban POW's

LD1906205995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today 20 prisoners of war, associated with Taleban, were released. Quoting a responsible source of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported to us that [words indistinct] and to resolve the current problems through talks and understanding, 20 prisoners of war of the Taleban group have been handed over to esteemed Mawlawi Muhammad Khan Sherani. [passage indistinct]

Bangladesh

Daily: U.S. Iranian Embargo 'Harming' World Peace

BK1706091395 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 12 Jun 95 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Embargo on Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is an irony that some Muslim countries because of their stiff opposition to U.S. politics, have been subjected to harsh U.S. embargo with the tacit support of the United Nations. Countries like Iraq and Libya and very recently Iran are facing the brunt of American annoyance which for all practical purposes cannot be taken in good spirit. The oil embargo imposed on Iraq and Libya is a direct infringement on the sovereignty of these countries and despite tough resistance, it still remains operative. Added to this list recently is Iran which is not at all worried with what America actually intends to do. Perhaps this prompted Iran's foreign minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to tell the world that Iran has enough resources to foil a U.S. economic embargo on the Islamic republic. The vocal foreign minister also made it public that Iran has passed the stage where it could be pressured through a trade embargo. Without mincing words, the resolute stance of Dr. Velayati that Iran has sufficient resources to substitute for and thwart the U.S. trade embargo is a signal to America not to tread on a jingoistic path. The arrogance of American politics in the unstable Middle East region particularly after the Gulf war of 1991 is pretty fresh in the minds of the frontline and neighboring states.

Washington on its part continues to accuse Tehran of supporting terrorism and seeking nuclear weapons, and therefore has imposed an economic embargo on Iran. The embargo went into force on Tuesday [6 June] last. The embargo is nothing new and the U.S. government has since the 1979 Islamic revolution sought to pressure Iran and create difficulties for the Tehran government.

The United States has no locus-standi and is acting in an arbitrary and coercive manner to undermine and ultimately destroy the economic backbone of Iran. America is very much critical of Tehran's views on some vital issues concerning Middle East peace and nuclear disarmament. Iran will never allow the United States to turn the Middle East into a bulwark of American imperialism. Unfortunately, it has not learnt from the unpleasant exit of the deposed Shah of Iran who was turning into a policeman of the Middle East. The siege of the American embassy along with some CIA elements after the Islamic revolution in no way changed the American policy in this turbulent region. Iran's triumph over belligerent forces primarily due to its forward looking policy — neither East nor West played a dominant role in forging close links with some diehard communist countries. Dr. Velayati did well in reminding Washington that trade today is based on competition and the United States before it can cause any problems for Iran has created difficulties for U.S. firms and forced them out of Iranian market. Whether the U.S. will pay heed to this is difficult to say, but this much is unmistakably clear that by creating new pockets of rivalry and tension, America is harming the cause of world peace.

In today's world, U.S. policy should have been one of mutual accommodation and respect towards regional powers. The visit to Pakistan of Iran's minister for petroleum on the day U.S. trade embargo against Iran came into force and signing of an agreement to establish a joint venture company for a multi-million gas pipeline project is very significant. President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said Iran would have no trouble in finding new clients for its oil. This amply demonstrates Iran's resolute stand to face all odds despite provocations.

Islamic Fundamentalists Said Usurping Freedom

*95AS0400A Dhaka JANAKANTHA in Bengali
7 May 95 P 5*

[Article by Dr.S.A. Malek: "Shamsur Rahman in the Eyes of Fundamentalists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The incident that took place in Sylhet during the civic reception of the renowned poet, intellectual and the promoter of the consciousness of the liberation war — poet Shamsur Rahman — has surprised everyone who believes in freedom, sovereignty and democracy. Though belated, this effort of the people of Sylhet deserved praise. But the effort did not succeed. The poet was not allowed to put his feet on the soil of Sylhet and the fundamentalists charged him with being anti-Islamic and obstructed his entrance. They not only seized control of the venue, they also attacked those people who arranged that function. The Jamaat [JI] camp declared poet Shamsur Rahman an apostate without explaining where, when or how the poet acted against Islam and vowed that they would not allow the poet to enter Sylhet. They kept their promise. The day is perhaps not too far off when they [fundamentalists] may demand that Shamsur Rahman and other progressive persons like him not be permitted to live in this country. In independent Bangladesh, the anti-independence fundamentalist force does not allow the public reception of a poet who is a believer in conscience and values the war of liberation of this nation and does not permit him to travel freely. They can declare any person anti-Muslim and can stage a trial for him. The inaction of the administration indirectly encourages the fundamentalists. It is intolerable that the pro-independence and democratic forces fail to serve their necessary role. After 24 years of independence which was earned at the cost of 3 million lives, the loss of individual rights and liberty of a renowned poet due to terrorist activities of an anti-independence murderous group is unacceptable to the free citizens and believers in democracy. What wrong did he do? He is an open- minded person and a supporter of the liberation movement. He does not believe in any superstition. He strongly believes in democracy. He is a supporter of secular, progressive politics and a believer in humanity. He hates Golam Azam [Pakistani citizen who heads the Jamaat-I-Islami of Bangladesh] as a killer and he wrote poems and articles about the criminal activities of this murderous group in different papers. He is against of mixing religion with politics. If this be considered as his guilt, then who knows that how many intellectuals are in the list of guilty in the books of the fundamentalists. If artists, novelists, intellectuals, philosophers, sociologists and scientists are not allowed to practice free-thinking, it is horrifying to imagine the future of this country. If Islam obstructs free-thinking, how will science and technology progress? The main objective for accepting the principle of secularism as a state policy was to transform the country to a modern democratic state where religious bigotry could not obstruct the road to progress. If the fundamentalists deprive a poet from writing poetry, there will be no literature and culture in this country. History says that fundamentalist thought creates obstacles in the progress of science, technology, arts and literature and it has been repeatedly seen in the past that [fundamentalism] tried to hold back the course of human civilization. Only a creative person can write poetry and he cannot write if religious bigotry stands in his way. For a poet the freedom of expression is most essential. What Rabindranath Tagore meant by the term "the God of life" is more comprehensive than the gods of religions. No creative literature is possible under dictated terms. Each believer is accustomed to his religious belief and accompanying activities. But poetry has no religious limitation. Milton and Michael Madhusudan both wrote epics. The difference of the substance of *Paradise Lost* and *Meghna Badh Kabya* could not do any harm to the sense of humanity of these two great poets. The open-minded people of this sub-continent never supported crimes committed against humanity due to religious conflicts. The poets, novelists and intellectuals , therefore, took up their pens against all kinds of superstitions and communalism since the days of colonial rule. Those who killed people in the name of religion and are today known as killers. We believe that those who trample humanity in the name of religion will be condemned decade after decade. Whatever Golam Azam and his associates may shout about Islam, the people of this country have identified them as killers. The poet Shamsur Rahman repeatedly said that he had nothing to say against religion and he never hated any genuine religious person. He protested against those who make a business out of religion and especially people who use religion as a weapon to create riots, bloodshed and destro human values. The majority of his poems carry the message of humanity, peace and love. Though he is basically a poet, a reflection of scientific and realistic thought is clearly evident in his poems. He wanted to look at the world and life from a realistic angle. Naturally, the language of his poems should not be against Islam, but against religious superstition. Those who know the poet personally, know how gentle and liberal minded he is in his personal life. He got recognition for his literary excellence abroad. But why are not the fundamentalists of the country ready to acknowledge him? The fundamentalists have weapons and kill people to establish their political ideology. The poet has no weapon with which to kill people. His weapon is his pen and that is actively striking at the roots of the fundamentalists. That pen is most powerful against religious bigotry, communalism, a reactionary mentality and fascism and the strike of it is something which the fundamentalists are unable to tolerate. They are not afraid of Shamsur Rahman, the person; they are afraid of Shamsur Rahman's poetry. They are scared of other idealists of his kind. They want to choke the voice of the poet by raising the charge of anti—Islamic activities. The poets' modern thought attacks their fortress of reactionary ideas and puts their very existence in trouble. They are more scared of the poet more than of a deadly weapon. His poetry is aimed at stopping their communal activities and calls for marching toward the path to progress. The poet wants to make the state and society liberal like the sky and vast like the ocean, whereas, the fundamentalists want to transform it to a little pond. The poet wants to move forward the course of history, whereas, they want to return to a medieval age of barbarism. Due to this, the poet is their enemy. The nation has recognized the poet with honor and he is getting more respect from the intellectuals of the country. He also got international recognition as a soldier in the path of freedom, democracy and progress. The fundamentalists cannot tolerate this and they want to isolate the poet from the people. They did not allow him to come to Sylhet in an attempt to stop him expressing his thoughts to the people. It was not against Shamsur Rahman as a person, it was resistance against the forces of progressiveness. The importance of this has to be realized and the wall of resistance of the fundamentalists should be broken. It is the responsibility of all — artists, literary persons, intellectuals, politicians — to take on the challenge of the fundamentalists. The anti-independence and reactionary circle should understand that they have no place in the soil of Bangladesh. Places like Sylhet, Chittagonga and Kushthia where the violent activities of the fundamentalists are trying to choke the voice of the people, these places are part of sovereign and independent Bangladesh. Nobody has rented those cities out to the fundamentalists though people know that the fundamentalists have their armed bases there and they have even held people hostage. But elections show how much popular support they have in those places. Golam Azam, the leader of the killer group of 1971, is not allowed by the people to come to many towns and cities. If the fundamentalists decide to resist the free movement of pro-independence artists, literary persons and intellectuals as a method of retaliation, this cannot be tolerated. There is no power in Bangladesh that can control the movement of poet Shamsur Rahman. There should be complete freedom for poets, novelists, intellectuals and artists to work freely. Nobody has the right to take away that freedom. Our constitution should have a provision to ensure that no self-interested force will be allowed to control the creativity of any talented person.

India

*Firmness Urged on Nonproliferation Stand

95AS0416A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 May 95 p 10

[Article by K. Subrahmanyam: "Time for Parliament To Be Firm on NPT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An impressions that there is perhaps a tacit understanding between India and the U.S. on the issue of Non-Proliferation Treaty is gaining ground at both places. India, not a party to the NPT and its bitterest critic had, therefore, not put up a struggle against the Treaty. Also, that India has joined forces with those non-aligned countries which, though members of the NPT, were putting up a stiff fight against its indefinite and unconditional extension. It is immaterial whether this is a justified impression or not. The harsh fact is such an impression persists. It is echoed in the corridors of the U.N. and was mentioned openly at Bandung non-aligned foreign ministers' conference.

The U.S. government has contributed significantly to this image. By repeatedly asserting that since India public opinion will not permit it signing the NPT, reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons in South Asia, over a period of time was their main objective. Various U.S. officials and documents have also referred to the China factor in the Indian security calculus. Other NAM [Non-aligned Movement] countries therefore logically infer that the U.S. is not applying enough pressure on India. The silence of both the Indian government and the Parliament on the issue other than repeatedly chanting the *mantra* that the discriminatory Treaty is unacceptable, is viewed by observers as a kind of quid pro quo by India towards the U.S.

Joint Declaration

The facts indicate that such an Indo-American deal may be plausible though the conclusions arrived at are unnecessary. The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, is the only head of government who has been able to persuade the U.S. President, Mr Bill Clinton, to sign a joint declaration that the ultimate goal of both countries is a nuclear weapon free world. The American officials refer to that declaration cynically whenever it suits them. The *New York Times* which did not consider it a news item fit to be printed when it was first issued, recently quoted it approvingly. But India did nothing when the U.S. President approved the U.S. nuclear policy review or the counter proliferation strategy thereby reneging on the commitment. India should have taken up the issue with the U.S. administration that these actions were contrary to the spirit of Rao-Clinton declaration.

Even as the Non-proliferation Review Conference was assembling in New York the Indian government should have made a declaration on the Indian nuclear policy perspective to the Indian Parliament. A comprehensive review which would have helped all those nations which are fighting against the indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT. The Government of India should carry out a damage limiting operation addressing the Indian Parliament to adopt a declaration which even at this stage will ring all round the world. The declaration need not be confrontationist but can make the following points: -

1. All weapons of mass destruction (WMD) should be eliminated. It will be impractical to legitimise one category of weapon of mass destruction — the nuclear weapon — and try to eliminate the less horrendous WMD, such as chemical weapons.

2. It sets a bad precedent to legitimise a weapon of mass destruction in the hands of a few powers in perpetuity.

3. Such legitimisation will lead to terrorists attempting to acquire such weapons and use it. A taboo against the use of nuclear weapons and a moral revulsion should be created in the minds of all humanity.

Imperative Need

4. Therefore there is an imperative need for a no first use declaration on the part of all nuclear weapon and nuclear weapon capable powers.

5. There is an imperative need for nuclear weapon nations to commit themselves to the goal of nuclear weapon free world. It is understood that this will take some decades to come about, but a commitment and a realistic time frame for such elimination are essential.

6. While the non-proliferation regime may have to be continued, its indefinite extension will contradict the preamble and article VI of the Treaty. Therefore a temporary extension followed by a series of supplementary treaties which will be non-discriminatory, verifiable and universal, should follow to make the non-proliferation effective and to bring about the elimination of nuclear weapons from all nations of the world. No first use, comprehensive test ban, cut off of fissile materials production, and time bound and verifiable programme of elimination of nuclear weapons are the measures on which simultaneous international negotiations should start immediately.

7. India, while opposing legitimisation of nuclear weapons and any discriminatory treaty on nuclear and missile systems should pledge to work for the above treaties leading to a nuclear weapon free world. Meanwhile, India should declare that it will never be the first to use its nuclear capabilities in hostilities against any other country.

If the Indian Parliament can make such a declaration before May 10, 1995, it would help the non-aligned countries fighting against indefinite extension in New York. If that cannot be done at least a clear policy statement from the Prime Minister is called for at the earliest possible date.

Common Civil Law for All Supported

95AS0396A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 16 May 95 p 6

[Article by Punam I. Kaushish. "Even Ambedkar Wanted a Common Civil Law for Everyone"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finally the eyes of justice are open. This, despite the unhappy truth about India's deformed secular ideals. Today this country is divided by caste and religion, devoid of any vision, and has politicians without any concern for tomorrow .

Last week this truth was accepted even by the supreme court. While considering India as one nation with different social groups, it could not find Rama, Allah or Christ very important. The supreme court expressed itself completely in favor of a common civil law. It rose above the forces of fundamentalism and obfuscation, and emphasized, for the sake of practicality, the need for a more liberal interpretation of the guidance provided in the constitution.

Everything seems disjointed now, blind fundamentalism is considered religion, and false stories are being used to support viewpoints about historical events. Fundamentalism is now considered a necessary ingredient of piousness. In fact, nowadays, words have lost their meaning.

In a landmark decision, the supreme court has appealed to the prime minister to give some thought to article 44 of the constitution. This proves that there is need for a uniform civil code. [passage omitted]

This appeal was issued in response to a case in which the court was considering the second marriage of a Hindu. In reality, the person involved had converted to Islam and according to the Islamic laws he had gone through the ceremonies. He had not divorced his first wife. Such a person, in common civil law can be found guilty of bigamy and can be punished, and this was such a case. The court expressed its displeasure with such games being played under the religious personal laws and said that article 44 seeks to divest religion from social relations and personal laws."

Undoubtedly, the supreme court needed to clarify the situation. This has been felt for a very long time. Every government plays games of deception, trying to convince the people of its secular character. Every prime minister was sworn in promising to provide to the people a country with a democratic and secular image. However, all of them proved failures. Whatever weighty pronouncements they made, they could not carry out in terms of policy. For example, is the Congress (I) really a party with a secular image? We can see that it forms a united front with the Muslim League in order to form the government in Kerala.

Right from the time of Mr. Nehru, these standards have been falling. Some people raised this thoughtful question; how many people are there who are willing to swear in the name of Dr. Ambedkar and wish that all the secular provisions of article 44 be applied?

Ever since independence, the political establishment has been rationalizing its reasons for [continuing] the special benefits of various groups. No doubt all with no malicious forethought. In fact, the main aim was to free the untouchables and remove their suffering. However, these policies, once enacted, were never removed nor were they limited. One after another, groups kept on asking for special considerations and made demands for special facilities depending upon their needs. Politicians were also ready and willing to support their demands.

Today the situation has come to a point where more than half of the population thinks itself to be deserving of special previledges. The remaining few people have been left alone. Some people threaten riots and others threaten noncooperation movements. The populace is full of feelings of revenge. Last week in the Lok Sabha (Parliament) some Christian members were making some demands. These people were asking for special privileges for their scheduled tribals just as the backward castes among Hindus have. Are we supposed to believe that nowadays even Christians have gone in for casteism? They used to believe in a uniform, no caste society. However casteism now pervades them too. The Politics of religion and casteism is removing the real politics of governance and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, leaders do not have the will power to apply the provisions of article 44. It clearly provides for a common civil law unconnected to any religion. The supreme court also has no recourse. It has again accepted this fact. It is the same issue that had been raised a decade back. All this was raised in 1985 in connection with the Shah Bano case [where Muslim women did not want to be answerable to Islamic law but instead preferred civil law].

At that time a five member constitutional bench had said, "Article 44 has lost its meaning in the present circumstances, what is needed is a new beginning. It is very necessary that the role of the reformer should be upheld by the courts. A uniform common civil code will prove a great help in national integration. This is possible only if we remove religious and personal laws." Even then, the Supreme Court did not take one step more, it stopped itself from playing the role of the reformer. It appealed to the then prime minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to inform the Muslim fundamentalists of his own wishes. He seemed to trust the Muslim mullahs more than the Supreme Court. In practical terms, the original Shah Bano case died. A repeat of this happened in 1993 after eight years in the case regarding Hamidan.

As matters stand, both Hindus and Muslims have forgotten all the practical assumptions behind religious customs. Now their leadership is in the hands of fundamentalists and religious fanatics who, without doubt, are bent upon following the wrong path. The real unpleasant matter is that even the educated people have started responding positively to the mullahs, this is true whether it is the matter of Shah Bano or Salman Rushdie, whether it is about Ms. Amina, Ayodhya or Ms. Taslima; in all these matters leadership [is in the hands of] religious fanatics. Many times it is said that Islam is in danger and new Fatwas are then issued. [passage omitted]

In this regard, the five major Muslim groups have shown their opposition to this article. It is their belief that if such steps are taken, they will not be able to observe their personal law [shari'ah] with full freedom which is one of the important dictates of their religion and culture. Even then, two of the groups believe that a common personal code must be the goal. However, it must be done in a step by step approach, all the while removing the apprehensions of the population.

Dr. Ambedkar had studied this problem in depth. He had observed two specific points. First, Muslim personal law is not completely inflexible. Second, it is not the same all over India. This though is against the grain of current Muslim thinking.

Dr. Ambedkar said: "The majority of our friends who have spoken in support of the resolution are forgetting that the North-West Frontier area [now NWFP in Pakistan] was not under the laws of Sharia until 1935. For matters regarding inheritance, it was always the Hindu laws of inheritance that were observed. This practice was so widespread that the administration continued the use of it till 1939. After that time, protests against began. Not only that, but all over India, till 1937, only Hindu law was recognized, even by Muslim administrations. The example of North Malabar is right in front of us."

Secondly Dr. Ambedkar, in trying to pacify the Muslim members, told them "I believe the public will become familiar with article 35 which says that the state shall try to establish a common civil code for all its citizens which can be helpful in the establishment of a united and civil society. It does not mean that every one will be forcibly brought under the the same common law. It is possible that some future legislature may legislate the law such that the parties will have to make a declaration before going to the court that this case is being prosecuted under the common civil law and (the parties) will accept the verdict of the court.

In all these matters, now the question arises, when should the government draw the line between religion and caste differences? At no time. In a secular state never! However, looking at the present political and social condition, Dr. Ambedkar's advice can be described as a false flight of imagination. This is because all the governments of India have failed to establish a line of separation between politics, religion and caste.

To move ahead politically, socially, economically and culturally one has to identify with one or the other ism. The minorities have been the main supporters of the secular state. There is no doubt that in a liberal state, to discard the principle of equality for the benefit of a particular class or religion is a foolish step. However, in India, everything goes for the sake of vote banks. Now, where shall we go from here? It all depends upon whether the government, even now, is hoping to remain free of any particular ism or not and recognize secularism. The Supreme Court has already shown the way. Now it is for the government to follow.

India and its secularism needs a common civil code, without delay. Then the Muslims will get have this alternative: Be liberal and develop further or be fundamentalist and remain backward. Article 44 should be made operational. This would constitute a real step towards India's secularism and national unity. We should always remember that the country should always be ahead of an individual or a group.

Arrest of Sadhvi Ritambhara Criticized

95AS0396B Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 4 May p 8

[Article by Bhanu Pratap Shukla: "Let There be No More Attacks Exploiting Hindus Tolerance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the middle of the night, having climbed the walls of a compound, the police arrested sleeping Sadhvi [Hindu Nun] Ritambhara on 24th April 1995. The reason; Sadhvi Ritambhara had addressed a large gathering on April 23rd in Udaynagar city of Devas district. The government considers that inspiring address to be an inciting address which can disturb the peace. The government arrested Sadhvi Ritambhara because of this fear. Her Guru, Swami Parmanand, was also arrested for starting a strike in Indore. It was only natural that there would be repurcussions in Madhya Pradesh and surrounding states. There were strikes and roadblocks etc... There were public disturbances by the

Bajrang Dal, Durga Bahini and other religious and cultural organizations. They were showing their unhappiness with the government's action. This opposition kept on increasing. In every district of the country the people expressed their displeasure with the decision. The Sants [Hindu religious figures] decided to March toward Bhopal.

On the surface this looks like a law and order issue; However this is not an issue connected with peace and tranquility in the state. This is about vested interests. Till now the Congress and other secular parties used to flatter and satisfy the demands of only the Muslim minority, now even the Christians have to be added to that. Through the medium of the Madhya Pradesh government, the central leadership of the Congress party has killed two birds with one stone. First, to demonstrate to the Muslims that the Congress is still devoted to them and to show to Christians that Congress and its governments will go to any length to win their confidence. With one stroke; the arrest of Sadhvi Ritumbhara and her Guru Shri Parmanand, the Congress has appeased both Muslims and Christians.

Hardly anyone would believe the claim by the Madhya Pradesh government that Madhya Pradesh state would have been burned and destroyed had Sadhvi Ritambhara not been arrested. Many hours after the public meeting, Udaynagar and Devas were quiet. The people living there were satisfied that finally they could appear peacefully in a large public meeting to air greivances. They took comfort in that if not the government, then at least some Sant or Sadhvi [Sadhvi Ritambhara] would listen to their cries. However, thanks to the Chief Minister, the Home Minister, the police commissioner, and the police officers of the Madhya Pradesh government, the matter was made to be one of law and order and converted it into minority vote bank politics. They have attacked the religious psych of the whole country.

The arrest of Sadhvi Ritumbhara is not only an attack on her freedom of expression and her constitutional rights but it is an attack on the whole democratic tradition and the ideals. Is it possible that now in this country we do not have the right to express what we think? Is it that from now onwards we have to think, talk and what the government tells us to, what is good for their power politics? Is this country a jail where we have to behave as the jailor wants otherwise there will be no end to the jail term? Is it that in this country one cannot speak the truth? Then only what the government says is the truth and the rest false!

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Digvijay Singh has exploited the quarrel between a Christian nun and a Hindu into a religious clash between Christians and Hindus. By playing this religious card, he has made the people of Devas District and Udaynagar feel helpless, nervous and without official protection. First, the Christians under the leadership of sister Maria beat one Mr. Jivan Singh and considering him almost dead, left him to die. After this Jivan Singh's friends beat sister Maria who died. When Mr. Jivan Singh was beaten, the government hardly noticed. When sister Maria was killed, the government woke up right away in favor of Christians. Mr. Jivan Singh's beating was ignored and many Hindus were arrested and prosecuted for harassment of the police so that the Christians would not be upset. In this way Mr. Digvijay Singh converted a simple felony into a religious clash.

After independence, it has almost taken for granted that no matter what in this country the minorities will always be taken care of. On their happiness depends Hindu honor. However, Hindu nationhood, families, religion and culture can be sacrificed for [appeasing] minorities. They [ruling elites] do not feel bad for the Hindus who constitute almost 85 percent of the population, being treated like the second class citizens of their own country. The citizenship of this country is determined by religion just like any other nonsecular country. The question is under these conditions; what do India's Sants do? What to do and how to live as a Hindu? How does one hold up the self respect of the gentry? Sadhvi Ritumbhara will go to jail if she speaks up. If Hindu society or Sants try to speak then they will have to pay a heavy fine. However if some Imam Abdullah Bukhari or some Shahbuddin, some Azam Khan, or some nun or Padre challenges this country's integrity or denounces a national festival, nothing can be said. If a large congregation of thousands of Muslims threatens to break legs of ministers or calls for burning their houses then nothing can be done. If the leader of the Hurriat announces the war of independence for Kashmir in the valley of Kashmir then no one will tell him to shut up. The Indian government, Congress (I) and other secular parties will pander them and say to them; "We wish you wouldn't say such things. Whatever you want we shall give it to you. We are ready to serve you day and night." For a particular offence when Bukhari was called by the court, Mr. Bukhari shouted "I am not going to the court. They can take me there if anyone has the guts to arrest me." If such disrespect of the Hindu's religious tolerance and their love for the country, makes them [The Hindu majority] unhappy and excites them, is it a sin or an unforgivable offence that they should also think for themselves and speak?

No disturbance had taken place. To arrest the Sants upon fear of a disturbance and to keep them locked up like common criminals, is trying Hindu patience and self control by fire. How long do Hindus have to suffer and why? Hindus consider their country to be one with their being, their thinking, their blood and flesh, their breath itself. For their nationalist feeling and self control is this the sentence they get?

When the terrorists got together in the golden temple of Amritsar, the Indian government brought out the army and had 'operation blue star'; but anti-national Muslims or Christians can get together in any masjid or church and plan conspiracies to break up the nation and this secularist government will ignore it. Masjids and churches are full of guns and explosives but those in power do not have the courage to enter these religious places to expose the explosives because the Muslims and the Christians will be unhappy. If these vote banks are unhappy then they (The politicians) will have to remain without power for some time. They will have no position in democratic politics.

Unhappy with this suffering, if an Ashok Singhal, a Mahant Avaidyanath, a Sadhvi Ritambhara, a Acharya Dharmendra, or some Sant or a common Hindu was to say "this is too much, this cannot go on, from now on this will not be allowed, there is a limit to Hindu self control, now Hindus will not accept all the atrocities and insults" then it should not come as a surprise but should be a matter for thought as to why the ocean of Hindu tolerance become so unhappy and intolerant? Who has made them so impatient for leaving peaceful contemplation and accepting confrontation? Who has made only Hindu society stand in the court of secularists?

The government of India, Congress (I), all its members and all secularists as well as all minorities should not forget that raising a hand to strike a Sant breaks an unbroken tradition of thousands of years. Any play or toying with the nation's traditions can hurt too much. Because of this, not only the Sant's followers but the whole society gets worried and disturbed. Sadhvi Ritambhara and her Guru Shri Parmanand Maharaj are not just vagabond homeless people, they have thousands of followers and millions of well wishers. They represent the whole of Hindu society, they are the voice and language of this society. The government of mr. Digvijay Singh has insulted the tradition of this country. He must pay a stiff price for that.

*British Eager To Enter Insurance Industry

*95AS0427B Madras THE HINDU in English
30 May 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 29—The British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, today confirmed that a number of British companies were keen to enter the insurance industry in India and had, in fact, signed some agreements with potential Indian partners.

Talking to presspersons here, Mr. Clarke said it was his impression that the financial sector in India was steadily being opened to competition and this would be in the interests of India. "As India gears up to join the first division of the international economic community, it has to open its financial sector also. That cannot remain closed. However, we appreciate that a number of sensitivities have to be taken care of and that the process of opening up would be gradual. We appreciate that."

Mr. Clarke pointed out that British insurance companies had been operating in India before the industry was nationalised some 20 years ago and were keen to get back. "In fact, they are looking forward to going back to their old offices," he added in a lighter vein. The Indian insurance industry was attractive because of the high rate of savings in the economy and British companies were of the view that a substantial part of these savings could be mobilised and channelised for development activity, he said.

Though he had arrived in India on Friday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer began his official visit today with a meeting with the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. This was followed up with meetings with the Commerce Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and the Minister of State for Surface Transport, Mr. Jagdish Tytler. On Tuesday, Mr. Clarke is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. His discussions with the Prime Minister would basically focus on economic matters, he added.

With the Finance Minister, Mr. Clarke's discussions ranged from possibilities of investment in the infrastructure sector to the question of opening up the financial sector. The question of bank licensing and the problem of settlements on the Indian stock exchanges also figured in the talks. On this, Dr. Singh reported the decision to set up a Central Depository and indicated that the legislation in this regard would be ready in a couple of months.

Power Sector

In the infrastructure sector, discussions centered around the power sector where the question of some sort of guarantee on investment was discussed. The British side was aware that sovereign guarantee was required in the initial projects to kick-off investment in this sector, it was felt that some type of guarantee was still required for the rest of the investment in the power sector. "I cannot say whether only sovereign guarantee will be required in the future. A number of options are being looked into, including State guarantee. I intend to discuss this issue with State leaders also," Mr. Clarke said.

In his discussions with the Commerce Minister, Mr. Clarke reviewed the progress of the Indo-British Partnership Initiative, launched by the Prime Ministers of the two countries in January 1993, and noted the significant increase in bilateral trade which had come about after the partnership initiative. The British side explained the attractiveness of London as a major financial centre for sourcing financial services and offered support in bringing more technology and investments into India.

Mr. Chidambaram also raised the issue of the proposed new Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to be introduced by the European Union in respect of agriculture and suggested that the new GSP dispensation should be based on the principle of non-discrimination so that India could have its right share of the European market. Mr. Clarke offered to carry the message back to his counterpart and also to the European Union.

Flow of Aid

At his press conference later, Mr. Clarke was asked about the flow of British aid to India. While assuring India of generous assistance, the Chancellor also pointed out that in the present context, dependence on aid should be less and focus should be on trade. "No country can become prosperous on the basis of overseas aid," he added.

*Opposition Protests Delay in Passing Patents Bill

95AS0427C Madras THE HINDU in English
30 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 29—The Government today announced its intention to refer the Patents Bill to a House Committee of the Rajya Sabha within this week and wait for its recommendation. This was stated today in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla amidst noisy protests by the entire Opposition, which charged the Government with acting under pressure from the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The announcement putting an end to speculation that it would be moved in the current session, however, did not prevent the Opposition from staging a walkout. The walkout followed an acrimonious debate for about an hour, which witnessed the Deputy Chairperson, Ms. Najma Heptulla losing her cool on more than one occasion.

Attempts by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, to dispel the apprehensions of the Opposition members were of no avail with an angry Opposition disrupting Mr. Mukherjee throughout his intervention, leading to Ms. Heptulla threatening at one stage that she was not going to allow such "unruly behaviour."

Mr. Shukla said that although the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha, the Government wanted a consensus among the various parties and hence the decision to defer its introduction in the Rajya Sabha. Putting up a brave face that the Government was not running away from any challenge, Mr. Shukla sought to dismiss the Opposition charge that the new found wisdom was nothing but an effort to avoid the Bill being defeated on the floor of the Rajya Sabha, where it is short of a majority.

Raising the issue during zero hour, Dr. Ashok Mitra (CPI-M) apprehended that the new patents regime might provide for product patenting and exclusive marketing rights (EMR) to multinationals even while the Bill seeking changes in the Patents Act was awaiting parliamentary approval. Dr. Mitra cited an interview by the WTO chief in a newspaper as evidence to the effect that the Government was receiving applications for product patenting and EMR from multinational companies.

Reading out from news reports, Dr. Mitra said that even after the Ordinance providing the product patenting and EMR for plant varieties, the Government continued to receive applications from MNCs [expansion not given] and charged the Government with putting an end to parliamentary democracy by continuing to receive applications for product patenting, which according to him was illegal.

The CPI(M) member said that in his interview, the WTO chief had stated that India by moving the Patents (Amendment) Bill had shown its willingness to confirm to the WTO regime and also pointed to the opening of a mail box to applications for product patenting and EMR as evidence enough that the Government was willing to change to the new regulations.

Dr. Mitra demanded that the Government should come out with an outright contradiction to the WTO chief's contention and urged that receipt of applications be stopped forthwith.

Explanation Sought

Rising in support of Dr. Mitra, the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi wondered as to why the Government changed its tone at this "late hour" when the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the Rajha Sabha had decided for its introduction on May

30. Speaking in the midst of loud protests from among his colleagues in the Opposition, Dr. Biplab Das Gupta (CPI-M) demanded an explanation from the External Affairs Minister on grounds that he was handling the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] affairs till very recently.

Dismissing the charges levelled by the Opposition as being bereft of facts, Mr. Mukherjee, intervening on his own volition, maintained that the mail box that was opened in India was part of the Marrakesh treaty and its purpose was restricted to keeping a record of the applications. Mr. Mukherjee said that the question of processing the applications would come up only after the passage of the new patents law. "If Parliament does not pass the Act, the mail box becomes a waste paper basket," Mr. Mukherjee stated.

Pointing to the question of offering exclusive marketing rights, Mr. Mukherjee said that unless the Patents Act was changed by Parliament, there was no way the Government was going to take up this issue and the applications received in this regard from multinational companies will not be processed. As of now, the Government can state clearly that the law does not provide for offering EMR, he said.

Even while Mr. Mukherjee stressed that India had time till 2004 to change its Patents Act under the Marrakesh treaty, an agitated Opposition attempted to stall the Minister from speaking, provoking an angry Ms. Heptulla to state that she will take up the next item on the agenda and asked Mr. Mukherjee to take his seat. She said that Mr. Mukherjee was not bound to clarify, since the issue did not relate to his Ministry and added that the Opposition members should show some consideration that he had volunteered to intervene on his own volition.

After Mr. Mukherjee completed his "explanation" during which he scoffed at the Opposition's apprehensions, members of the Left parties, the Janata Dal, DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Dravidian Progressive Foundation)] and the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] walked out in protest and they were followed by the BJP a little while later.

Iran

Commentary Views 'Shameful Reaction' by U.S.

NC2006112995 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Jun 95 p 10

[Unattributed commentary: "Shameful Reaction"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following Clinton's call for sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran and its subsequent defeat in its confrontation with reality, the U.S. Government and Congress have resorted to other policies, basically by reacting to the international and domestic repercussions of the disgrace suffered by Clinton's policy, and by trying to gain as much as is possible out of all this.

But when the main policy is defeated, other policies that are mere reactions will also be defeated.

One of these efforts was a recently-published letter from almost half the U.S. congressmen to Bill Clinton. In this letter, 202 U.S. congressmen stress: We are convinced that under no circumstances should a policy of moderation be adopted toward the Iranian regime! The time has come to adopt practical policies, including military, economic, political, and diplomatic sanctions. [passage omitted]

Clinton's sanctions policy was actually defeated when it met with international indifference and the resistance of the Iranian nation and Government. And the ensuing political efforts by the United States, namely the efforts by U.S. congressmen, should be assessed as their effort to defy the enemy from a weak position.

On the international scene, apart from the United States' adopted child in the Middle East — Israel — no other government has joined the Clinton Administration's move. [passage omitted]

Another factor that helped defeat the policies of the White House and Congress was the Iranian nation's resistance and the decisive and timely decisions by our officials. And by overcoming economic instability, especially in the field of foreign exchange, these decisions helped to dash all hopes that the sanctions policy would succeed.

It is surprising how the U.S. congressmen and officials have been interpreting the Iranian nation's cries of "Death to America" as this nation's efforts to gain U.S. style democracy and aid. But what logical mind wants to follow the pattern of U.S. democracy, which is characterized only by corruption, decadence, fear, and political disillusionment?

Finally, the U.S. congressmen who have constantly been propounding the terrorist nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran are now resorting to terrorism themselves. Their plan to support the monafeqin [hypocrites — pejorative for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and to replace the legitimate Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with them is yet another shameful reaction, outside the framework of the Executive Branch, to the recent defeats suffered by Washington's foreign policy.

Radio Views Chinese Ties After Clinton's 'Defeat'

NC2106063595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports state that Beijing has once again rejected the U.S. charge that China is selling missile technology to Iran. China called the allegations baseless. This is the umpteenth time that Washington has accused China of cooperating with Iran in the nuclear and missile fields; Washington is receiving Beijing's clear response.

Of course, Iran and China may be cooperating in the nuclear field. But as officials in Tehran and Beijing repeatedly state, the cooperation is of a completely peaceful nature and is not at all military. The U.S. charges that China is selling missile technology to Iran will be brought up exactly four days after U.S. President Bill Clinton's defeat at the Halifax summit in Canada.

Most political analysts believe that after having failed to discourage Russia from nuclear cooperation with Iran and after the industrialized nations of the Halifax summit replied negatively to the United States' request that they adhere to the sanctions decisions on Iran, Mr. Clinton has started a new propaganda-psychological war to conceal his defeats and to damage Iranian-Chinese relations.

The United States is more concerned about China's negative reply to its illogical demands than it is about the other countries that replied negatively. In addition to the differences between Beijing and Washington on the various issues, China not only did not participate in the U.S. trade embargo on Iran, but it very clearly stated that it is even ready to fill part of the vacuum that resulted from the U.S. sanctions. Moreover, Iranian-Chinese relations are improving daily. Thus, when Clinton saw that he was unable to test his luck with Beijing, he began a new scheme.

Russian Envoy Assures Ties Despite U.S. Efforts

LD2106130395 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — Russia's ambassador here, Sergey M. Tretyakov, stressed that Russia and other European countries will not sacrifice their interests in Iran for the sake of the U.S.

As independent countries, Russia and other European countries will not allow Washington to dictate policies, Tretyakov said in an interview printed in the morning daily 'IRAN' Wednesday [21 June].

On the Halifax, Canada, summit of G-7 leaders, Tretyakov said that despite Washington's efforts the summit, like the recent visit of President Bill Clinton to Moscow, did not fulfill Washington's expectations vis-a-vis Iran.

The Russian diplomat said definitely the summit will bring no change to Tehran-Moscow good relations. This has been confessed by the Americans.

Tretyakov said that the summit in its final communique has urged all countries not to assist Iran in its alleged efforts to gain access to nuclear technology. There is no doubt that this has nothing to do with Iran-Russia peaceful nuclear cooperation, he told the paper.

Russia is sure that Iran does not intend to gain access to nuclear weapons the fact, the Islamic republic of Iran has proven this in practice, the Russian diplomat said.

Iran as a signatory to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has demonstrated its commitment to the treaty and has repeatedly allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to visit its nuclear installations, he added.

Tretyakov said the IAEA's inspection teams through their reports have confirmed that Iran is not in quest of nuclear weapons and that its nuclear program is of peaceful nature.

The Russian diplomat added that Russia will go ahead with its nuclear cooperation with Iran and that no obstacle will hinder the cooperation.

The allegations against Iran accusing it of working to gain access to nuclear weapons are not based on any documented evidence and no one should pay any attention to the accusations, the Russian diplomat added.

He further said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will pay a visit to Iran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

As for concern of Western countries about Iran, Russia and Iraq ties, Tretyakov said that in international diplomacy each country moves on the basis of its own national interests.

He added that Russia due to its interests in both Iran and Iraq is to upgrade its ties with both Tehran and Baghdad and that Moscow's relations with the two countries are against no country in the region.

Referring to Tehran and Baghdad desire to settle their problems, Tretyakov said that this is a normal attitude and that Moscow too is for normalization of Tehran-Baghdad ties.

As for Iran-Iraq economic cooperation, the Russian ambassador expressed confidence that the two countries' good relations will ensure peace and stability in the region.

He further refuted as baseless reports by certain Western news sources claiming that Moscow, Tehran and Baghdad are thinking of setting up a military union.

He said that Russia views its ties with Iran and Iraq from strategic point of view. "If someone evaluates Moscow's policy from its own perspective, then that is his problem," the Russian ambassador concluded.

Commentary Views Western Stance on Iraqi Weapons

NC2106070495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 21 Jun 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN group for the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, reported to the Security Council on this topic yesterday. Ekeus, who visited Iraq recently, said that during these consultations the file on the destruction of Iraq's biological weapons had not yet been closed and that there were questions that Iraq had not yet answered. Following the session, the permanent U.S. representative to the Security Council stated that Iraq is not sufficiently cooperating with the UN group.

Until now, such comments on the eve of the Security Council's periodic meetings to discuss the international sanctions against Iraq have given hints as to what decisions the West, especially the United States and Britain, would make on continuing the sanctions. But what is noteworthy in the file on Iraq's biological weapons is the information that the West has handed to the UN group in charge of destroying Iraq's mass destruction weapons. The West, which has always portrayed itself as favoring an international ban on the proliferation of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, had to confess during the process of the destruction of Iraq's mass destruction weapons that they had placed a quantity of similar inhuman arms at Iraq's disposal during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

This insincere position by the West has now caused doubt to arise about how sincere its current charges are on the quantity of biological weapons it previously placed at Iraq's disposal. Also, it is possible that this time as well, the West may have distorted facts for totally political reasons.

Deputy Comments on Bosnia, Israel, Majles

LD1806100195 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA — Any resolution passed by the U.N. Security Council is nowadays vetoed by the U.S. and the Zionist regime, Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, Tehran Majles deputy, was quoted as saying.

Khorassani who was Iran's former U.N. envoy, in an exclusive interview with KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL commented on developments related to Bosnia, occupied Palestine and the fourth Majles.

Referring to developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Raja'i-Khorassani said "the commission of foreign policy in Majles strongly condemns the massacre of the Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs and it is the big sorrow for us to see that the international body has faltered in performing its legal and moral duty towards the innocent bosnian people." He believed that the international body has to shoulder greater responsibilities.

He said composition of U.N. forces and their special tasks as well as special gains made by certain countries involved, prevent them from taking decisive actions to protect the Bosnians.

He hoped that Islamic states can take up such a responsibility.

On the outcome of the occupation of Palestinian lands by the Zionist regime, Raja'i-Khorasani termed the outcome as "extremely disastrous and deplorable". He said Iran strongly condemns the occupation and believe that the existing problem in the Middle East will worsen.

If the Zionist regime and its supporters like the West, especially the U.S., had been willing to settle the Palestinian issue, they would not have tried to add insult to injury.

Raja'i-Khorasani hoped that by realizing the lamentable situation, Palestinians in the occupied lands would unite and stand up against the aggression and occupation and prevent the Zionists from staking claims of sovereignty.

Inquiring his view about possible Israel-Syria agreement, Raja'i-Khorasani said there is a possibility that they may come to terms. The reason he believes is that Israel and its allies are making all efforts to bring about peace between Israel and its neighboring states. These two nations have been negotiating over the Golan Heights for a long time. So far, Syrians have shown a strong resistance and their basic condition is that Israel should withdraw from Muslim lands, especially from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

He believed that only after this condition is meterialized, then can the peace talks between Israel and Syria and also establishment of peace between the two countries be possible.

"Resolutions issued by the Security Council and the General Assembly have asked Israel reportedly to withdraw from the occupied lands and insisted that the lands which have been under occupation since 1967 should be evacuated", he added.

If the Israelis come to such terms, then only will the Syrians succeed in their endeavors for peace and this will lay ground for negotiations and peaceful settlement of the disputes, he further added.

Concerning Majles performance, Raja'i-Khorasani said with sources and potentialities that the Majles has at hand, on the whole it tries to solve the country's problems, either via legislations or by inspecting that laws be well executed.

He guessed that taking into account the special composition of the Majles and all its potentialities, more than what has been done until today should not be expected.

The Majles performs its duty with utmost efficiency, he added, adding that it Majles has had different roles to play at different stages. [sentence as received] In the early days when the first Majles came into being, it acted doing all within its reach because of the freedom and democracy — an outcome of the Islamic Republic: but it has now gradually settled and performs its task based on logic and with utmost sincerity.

He said the number of experts in the Majles is increasing day by day. This development can further assist the Majles in solving issues. However, despite the progress, he is not sure that the Majles has succeeded in solving all the problems of the country.

If all our problems are not solved, it may be because of too much pressure of work or conditions in which had confined the Majles. But the most important thing is that when the world studies our Majles, he added, almost all could conclude that the dominant system in the Islamic Republic of Iran is much more complete and advanced than so many other systems in the world, specially in the region.

Official Comments on 'Failed' Efforts in Bosnia

LD2106073995 Tehran IRNA in English
0609 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — The current circumstances prevailing in Bosnia simply demonstrated that the United Nations as well as the Contact Group have failed in their stated mission, a senior diplomat in the Iranian Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying.

Saying that the existing situation in Bosnia is unaccepted and inhuman, Director General and head of Central European affairs Ebrahim Rahimpur told the English-language daily IRAN NEWS that deteriorating situation in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihac and Pale as well as a number of other towns and cities across Bosnia indicated that "not only has there been no progress, but that things have, in fact, gotten worse."

"It's crystal clear that the Contact Group of the West (comprising the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia) could do nothing and failed in its objectives," Rahimpur commented adamantly.

Stressing that Iran has always extended its sincerest efforts towards arriving at a solution to the Bosnian problem, the former ambassador of Iran in India said, "so far, we have taken quite a number of positive steps in that direction."

He conceded that many countries including Iran are involved in efforts to bring about a long-overdue peace in the war stricken Balkan region and regretted that other countries efforts "are not as sincere as those of Iran."

"Despite the problems, we will continue our efforts for bringing peace in Bosnia," stressed the official.

He cited one of the most considerable difficulties in Iran's ability to extend its help as the limitations imposed by NATO and the U.N. as well as Iran's lack of foreign currency to assist those humanitarian causes which it chose to assist.

However, Rahimpur added that Iran's efforts to attain Bosnian peace would not subside, and would continue under the framework of the Islamic Conference Contact Group as well as the Islamic conference and tripartite talks between Iran, Greece and Bosnia- Herzegovina.

A ministerial Bosnian delegation is due to arrive in Iran to conduct talks related to bilateral interest, said the deputy foreign minister. However, he gave no further details.

As for Iran's relations with former East European countries, Rahimpur said that following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Iran's ties with the former communist countries have been characterized by a downward trend.

The reason was that the financial circumstances and the changing administrative system of these nations were in upheavel. During the next few years Iran's ties with the former East bloc are expected to improve, given the interest they have shown in participating in the five-year plan, noted the official.

Rahimpur said that in addition to commercial arrangements involving imports and exports, Iran and the newly independent states would also join in joint venture projects of local production.

Khamene'i Hails Guard Corps on 'Ashura Exercise

LD2106134095 Tehran IRNA in English
1310 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — Supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, here Wednesday [21 June] lauded efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commanders in successful perfomance of 'Ashura' [as received] maneuvers.

In a letter to head of the Armed Forces Command Headquarters, Brigadier General, Dr. Firuzabadi, the leader praised IRGC's senior commanders for launching the Ashura maneuvers in the scheduled short period.

Grand Ashura maneuvers were carried out by the IRGC units in southern Tehran last week, which was described as excellent by military experts.

General Comments on Exercise

LD2006204495 Tehran IRNA in English
1814 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — The military exercise of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) held in southern Tehran last week indicated the high preparedness for rapid deployment of the infantry and armoured forces in a possible state of emergency, first deputy commander of the IRGC, Brigadier General Rahim Safavi, said here Tuesday [20 June].

Brigadier Rahim, who was commander of Sarallah Base in the 'Ashura maneuvers, told IRNA that the IRGC has planned to study the achievements of the exercises at a specialized defence college.

He said that the 'Ashura exercise was launched in three main phases, marching orders, camping and operations.

Within 48 hours after marching orders, 400,000 troops converged at the venue from other provinces and 100,000 of the elite fighters took part in the maneuvers. Safavi said the second phase was camping 100,000 troops along with modern armoured equipment in which 500 main battle tanks (m.b.t.), personnel carriers, artillery, Katyusha and other instruments including surface to surface missiles, air to surface and surface to sea missiles were at the scene.

The third phase of the military exercise was coordinated operation of the forces which attained its objectives with no casualties.

Youth Projects Created To Combat Western Culture

LD1506180495 Tehran IRNA in English
1233 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday [14 June] ordered that rls. 56.829 billion be allocated to setting up of recreational facilities for the youth to combat Western cultural inroad.

Speaking in a meeting on the Article 55 of the 1374 budget law, the president called for promotion of healthy cultural, sports, and recreational activities of the youth and giving priority to the existing charter of education for the youth approved by the supreme council for the youth.

President instructed the secretariat of the supreme council for the youth to supervise spending of the budget allocation by the relevant institutions including Ministries of Education, Culture and Higher Education, Culture and the Islamic Guidance, Health and Medical Education, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) and Islamic Azad University.

Demonstrations Said Harbinger of New Revolution

95LH0156A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
22 Apr 95 pp 14-18

[Article by Dr. Ali Nuri Zadah: "Tehran Demonstrations: Will Shah Crisis Recur; Interior Minister Advised That Price Increases Be Announced After Nauruz But Oil Minister Insisted on Timing; Rumors of Coup Prior to Explosion; Army Chief of Staff Refused To Send Units to South Tehran; Khamene'i Gave Go-Ahead Signal to Put Down Demonstrations; Government Demonstration in Akbarabad Few Days After Acts of Violence; Thousands of Revolutionary Guard and Basej Cordoned Off Tehran, Meshed, Isfahan, and Tabriz"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian "revolution's Sinimmar" got his reward from this revolution's Nu'man on the morning of Tuesday, 4 April of the "16th year of the Khuranaq edifice of the jurisprudent's governance [1995]."

This is how a representative of the opposition Iranian People's Party in Europe described what happened in the area of Ribat Karim and the surrounding towns of Akbarabad, Islamshehr, and Ali Shah Avaz, located southwest of the Iranian capital, from 0800 until 1800 on the evening of the bloody Tuesday.

The people who gathered in Akbarabad's streets and flew slogans denouncing the Iranian regime's high-ranking officials and demanding cancellation of the new decrees raising the prices of fuel, electricity, and telephones and who called for water pipelines to be extended to their towns, where inhabitants continue to buy their water from tanker trucks daily—those people have never been supporters of the monarchy, of the previous regime, or of leftist factions. They were not Sunnis, Baluchis, or Azeris. Moreover, the Ministry of Intelligence did not have any documents indicating that those people were connected to "world imperialism," or the "greater" or lesser "Satan." Neither did the intelligence have documents indicating that a secret bond tied the people of Akbarabad, Islamshehr, Ribat Karim, or Ali Shah Avaz to the idolatrous, the monopolists, and the international imperialist companies.

So who were those people who set fire to a gas station, to the office of the representative of Vali-ye Faqih, to the Revolution Guard center, and to the State Security Forces office? Who are those people who tore apart the pictures of the people in charge and of departed and future leaders? To what party did Kazim Raja'i Pur—the youngest victim of Tuesday's riots, who was burned by a blind missile fired from a helicopter by men of the Revolution Guard's Special 66 Airborne Division over the demonstrators' heads—belong?

In contrast with last year's riots in Meshed, Shiraz, Arak, and Isfahan, which were staged by students, educated groups, people enthusiastic for the previous regime, and national and leftist opposition forces, the uprising of Akbarabad and of the neighboring towns was distinguished by the presence of several elements that remind us of the demonstrations that were staged in the shah's final days:

— First, the uprising was staged spontaneously and without prior planning.

— Second, all participants were poor people who had been promised free electricity, water, telephone services, and a share of the oil on the basis that "every morning, oil company officials will knock at your doors to give you your share of the oil sales in cash." This phrase was part of a statement Ayatollah Beheshti, one of the revolution's prominent leaders, made upon Imam Khomeyni's return to Iran.

— Third, on the basis of the files of the Martyr's Organization, the Imam's Aid Organization, and the Red Crescent Organization, the inhabitants of Ribat Karim, Akbarabad, Islamshehr, and Ali Shah Avaz, totaling nearly 300,000 people, offered 3,543 martyrs in the war. Moreover, 140 of their member are still missing or prisoners. In view of these elements, the 4 April uprising was a surprise to the Iranian authorities. Meanwhile, the opposition has received reports of the uprising as an ordinary thing. It is as if they had expected a confrontation of this sort to erupt between the poor and the regime at any moment.

To provide a clear picture of what developed in Akbarabad and other towns, we must turn the arms of the clock back to a few hours before the onset of Iran's Nauruz (the solar new year) on 21 March 1995; i.e., we must turn the arms of the clock back to the hours when the National Security Council members met with President Rafsanjani to discuss some affairs and issues that usually fall within the column of "strategic affairs."

Deteriorating Rial Exchange Rate

According to an Iranian source close to Rafsanjani, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati warned at the meeting of the consequences of declining riyal exchange rates and rising prices while the people were approaching Nauruz, the holiday that Iranians have been celebrating for thousands of years. During Nauruz, the Iranian citizen, be he poor or wealthy, considers himself required to observe the holiday's traditions and customs, beginning with the purchase of new clothes for his wife and children and bringing confectionery into the house and ending with giving gifts to friends and relatives. This tradition began under Jamshed, the mythical king, and has continued in the era of the jurisprudent ruler.

Besharati requested that the decision to raise oil, benzene, electricity, and telephone prices be postponed until after the holiday. He said, "At a time when the government cannot offer the people a gift on occasion of the holiday, it must at least avoid provoking riots on the eve of the holiday by [not] announcing the increase that will occur in fuel prices and others." Despite Besharati's warnings, the National Security Council approved the cabinet decree to raise the prices of fuel and of some services as of 21 March as a result of the oil minister's insistence on the need to raise fuel prices.

In view of the warnings by Besharati, who was himself one of the students who staged mammoth demonstrations at the Tehran University campus in 1969 against the decision of the shah's government at the time to raise benzene prices from six riyals a liter to 10 riyals a liter (currently, a liter costs 150 riyals), the National Security Council granted the interior minister special powers for a specific period of time to take whatever measures he deemed necessary in case protests were staged in the major cities against the decision to increase the price of fuel and of general services. To prevent any unlicensed meeting in the major cities, Besharati brought thousands of guardsmen and of the Basij to reinforce the security forces in Tehran, Meshed, Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, and Ahvaz.

As of the start of that holiday, security men and guardsmen started deploying densely and clearly in the streets of those cities. This resulted in the spread of rumors about an abortive coup by a guard unit in wake of the death of Ahmad Khomeyni. It is worth noting that Khomeyni's sudden absence from the arena aroused rumors about the causes of his death and the parties that stood behind it. One rumor circulated in this regard is that Khomeyni, who had severely criticized the government for its failure to confront inflation and unemployment a few days before he suffered a heart attack that brought on a three-day coma after which he died, is that he was poisoned at the home of Tabataba'i, his brother in law, where Ahmad had spent several hours before he returned home and went to sleep.

According to the same rumor, Dr. Arifi, who was head of the medical team treating Khomeyni, detected the fatal poison in Ahmad's body, and this is why the government killed Arifi by staging a traffic accident two days after the announcement of Ahmad's death.

Because these rumors spread in the country and were accepted by numerous guardsmen who supported Khomeyni and his son, the regime was compelled to convene a press conference in which Dr. Arifi announced inauguration of the biggest center for the treatment of heart diseases in Tehran. We should keep in mind that Dr. Arifi, who assumed the position of minister of health during Khomeyni's administration, does not hold any official position now. Therefore, the fact that he was commissioned to announce inauguration of the heart center in Tehran is tantamount to an attempt to put an end to the rumors concerning the causes of Khomeyni's death.

Khamene'i's Absence

On top of this, the absence of Ali Khamene'i, the revolution leader, from the capital and his prolonged visit to Meshed, his birthplace, has also caused the rise of rumors about his retreat as a result of a verbal argument he had with Rafsanjani on the eve of the holiday and of threats he had received—threats that Ahmad Khomeyni's fate awaits him if he continues to create problems and to place obstacles in the face of Rafsanjani's reform programs. What is indubitable is that the holiday, the absence of dailies, and the radio and television's preoccupation with airing recreational programs and films helped greatly to strengthen the belief among the people that something had happened at the top of the government. Else, why would Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, and other regime figures disappear?

It is certain that what happened in Akbarabad and its suburbs had led to calm on the rumors front. But some Iranian sources believe that this is the "calm that precedes the storm."

Beginning and End

What Iran is experiencing currently is not the beginning, and will not be the end, of the state of misery and pessimism dominating the Iranian society as a result of the ruler's failure to achieve this society's aspirations. The economy is dying, corruption is widespread at the highest levels, and the citizen's trust in the government is totally nonexistent. Ongoing conflicts between government leaders over foreign policy and economic and social reforms are escalating.

Until the near past, the government justified its failure to resolve problems by exaggerating the radicals' role and the consequences of the prolonged and devastating war [with Iraq]. On 3 April, i.e., two weeks after Ahmad Khomeyni's death, JAMHURI ISLAMI published an interview with Ahmad, noting that HURRAS OL ISLAM had conducted the interview with the departed man three years earlier. In the interview, the paper revealed something that is in contrast with what the Iranians have believed. Khomeyni, the son, said that his father wanted to end the war with Iraq after the liberation of Khorramshehr and the surrender of thousands of Iraqi military men to the Iranian Army in 1982. The son added that at a meeting with high-ranking officials, his father asserted that the Iranian Army had defeated Iraq and that the situation helped Iran accept the friendly countries' peace plan. But high-ranking officials (who included Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, and Nateq-Nuri) insisted on carrying on with the war and said that the Iranian forces' arrival at the two banks of Shatt al-'Arab was necessary to force Iraq to pay reparations.

Since Khomeyni's death, government figures have asserted on various occasions that Khomeyni was behind the prolonged war because he wanted to liberate Jerusalem through Karbala'. Today, JAMHURI ISLAMI, the paper owned by the revolution leader, announces the opposite.

In Akbarabad, whose poor inhabitants believed the imam's 1979 promises that their huts would be transformed into palaces and their villages into gardens and who participated in the demonstrations and the uprising against the shah so as to lead the imam and his companions to power—these inhabitants say today: We don't want gardens, palaces, or even clean water. Just return to us our relatives and sons who were killed in the eight-year war and in the three-hour war of 4 April.

[Begin box]

Khamene'i Gave Go-Ahead Signal To Put Down Demonstrations

A joke told by Iranians says: Imam Khomeyni promised the Iranian people that shares from oil exports would be distributed daily. Out of 60 million Iranians, three million get an oil share at refugee social security departments in Europe and the United States, but only weekly. Other Iranians can also get a share if they seek asylum abroad.

This joke reflects the degree of popular wrath at promises made by the revolution leaders. It also demonstrates one aspect of the tragedy of millions of Iranians who have fled their country. It is one of hundreds of jokes circulated by long columns of people waiting in front of bakeries and grocery shops.

What happened on 4 April 1995 in the town of Akbarabad and several neighboring towns on the Tehran highway was tantamount to a popular response to the empty and unfulfilled promises made by the revolution for the past 17 years.

According to some witnesses who have talked with officials of the Iranian People's Party led by Daryush Foruher, the labor minister in Engineer Bazergan's cabinet, several hundred inhabitants of Akbarabad gathered on the morning of Tuesday at the town square and raised slogans demanding abolition of the decree raising fuel prices and fares charged by buses operating between Akbarabad and the capital, where most of Akbarabad's inhabitants work. They also called for the dismissal of the ruler of Ribat Karim and announced that they would not return to their homes unless the water network is extended to their town, where thousands of people live without potable water.

When security men tried to disperse the inhabitants with tear gas, clashes developed between the two sides. Consequently, the security men fled and the demonstrations expanded to include the towns of Islamshehr, Ali Shah Avaz, and Ribat Karim.

According to eyewitnesses, with the arrival of riot control units at 1000, the demonstrators' slogans turned into chants denouncing the regime's prominent leaders, led by Khamene'i.

AL-MAJALLAH has learned from Iranian Government sources that the interior minister set up an emergency operations room at the Security Forces Chief of Staff on Karkar Street as soon as he heard of the riots. The minister was joined by Brigadier General Sayfollahi, the security forces commander, and Brigadier General Aqaba'i. When Besharati heard that the demonstrating crowds, who numbered nearly 10,000 people at around 1100 on Tuesday morning, were moving toward the capital; that security men had either fled or joined the demonstrators; that the demonstrators had gained control of police stations, the governor's office, banks, and the Tehran-Savah Autostrad; and that they had burned gas stations and government vehicles, he contacted Khamene'i, the revolution leader, who was following up the developments from his office in North Tehran.

Iranian sources assert that Rafsanjani was opposed to involving the armed forces in putting down the South Tehran uprising but that Khamene'i gave Besharati the go-ahead signal to use the army and the guard to contain the incident and to stamp out the demonstrators. On the basis of a statement issued by Free Officers of the Iranian Army, Major General Ali Shabazi, the army chief of staff, refused the orders to send a unit of Zolfiqar Special Division to Akbarabad. He justified his refusal by saying that the army had paid an exorbitant price during the revolution for confronting demonstrations. He added that to embroil the army in a battle against the people would have grave and damaging consequences to the regime's interests.

At 1230, the special units of the Havabard Division 66 of the Revolutionary Guard was summoned to the battlefield. These units were supplied with five helicopters that fired hundreds of missiles, tear gas bombs, and incendiary materials at the heads of South Tehran's inhabitants.

Mohammad Rasolallah, a revolution guard brigadier general and interrogator at the chief of staff of the 27th Division led the guard forces against the Akbarabad uprising, which resulted in 53 people killed, more than 108 wounded, and 400 people detained.

On the following day, the Ministry of Intelligence organized a big demonstration with the participation of Revolutionary Guardsmen, Khamene'i's representative in Islamshehr, and government employees in the area that witnessed the Tuesday uprising. This demonstration was organized against those whom Khamene'i characterized as troublemakers and riffraff.

Despite the demonstrations staged in support of the regime, the inhabitants headed after the demonstrations to the hospitals of Ribat Karim, Shahreyar, and Karj to inquire about their wounded sons.

Clashes again developed in front of those hospitals and culminated with the arrest of a large number of relatives of the wounded and the detained.

A week after the Akbarabad incident, the official authorities acknowledged that a number of victims fell during clashes between Revolutionary Guard and security men on the one hand and demonstrators in Akbarabad and Islamshehr on the other. However, the outcome of those clashes was, according to the government press allegations, no more than eight people killed, including one security man, and 30 wounded. As for detainees, the press refrained from mentioning the number and was content to say that some troublemakers are being interrogated. [end box]

Editorial Views Press, President's Criticism

95LA0258A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 10 May 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the conditions that external hostilities gain new dimensions every day, the press, as one of the main organs of political life in the society, can play an effective role in strengthening social unity and countering foreign threats. Achieving this important goal, however, will not be possible except through believing in a sincere relationship with the people and the cooperation of the executive officials of the country in advancing satisfactory dealings with those in doubt.

The religious, national, and social duty of the thinkers and writers of the press, through expanding awareness, is to stand against enemy invasion on the belief, cultural, political, and economic borders of the country. For this reason, the press, having a purpose in the harsh years of the revolution, the imposed war, and the period of reconstruction, by logically defending the actions of the sincere and trustworthy implementers, has engaged in the fundamental critique of the operators questioned by the society, and by separating the real from the unreal, has prevented the materialization of the goal of the enemy to distort the large volume of fundamental services. In traveling this difficult road, certainly the press has not been without error, but the inquiring print media is accused of superficiality in reporting that the frequent invitations to executive officials to take part in discussions and avoid clich reactions to the problems of the society have been unsuccessful.

Refusals to give explanations to the society through the press have gradually given rise to a trend in which the status and place of the press have been neutralized. This expectation that the print media should merely become a one-sided podium is neither worthy of our Islamic society nor the distinguished cultural and political personalities of the country.

Preferring fundamental and constructive work over making daily normal life more comfortable has, on the one hand, been among the great praiseworthy actions of the government and, on the other, has been the basis for many questions, which those who have deviated from this path have avoided answering.

The president's frequent criticism of the critical methods of the press and ultimately his unkindness toward the Press Festival, which despite all the shortcomings is considered a great step toward raising the quality of the press and strengthening the position of reporters and journalists of the country, does not contain a pleasant message.

So far, the actions of the print media have been frequently criticized by the executive officials. If this sensitivity, that is sometimes proper, would also include some of the errors of the officials, a more rational relationship would result between the executive system and the society through the press.

The national press, affected by various factors, has not yet achieved its actual position and suffers in the performance of the duty of protecting the health of the society through investigating numerous shortcomings and weaknesses, but admitting these shortcomings does not mean lacking a clear definition of the place of the press in an idealistic society. The political personalities who are concerned with institutionalizing the legitimate freedoms, affected by the hardship of executive work under the present conditions, should not indirectly present a model of the press that would not be worthy of a mature society.

To make the difficulties exclusive to the executive affairs is to neglect the complexities of cultural and worthwhile work, and now that the government has made an effort to establish its own particular kind of press, it is not difficult to understand this fact. Many errors which occur in the government newspaper due to the difficulty and speed of news dissemination would have produced different reactions if they had occurred in other media. *

Hence, a government that is rightly proud of its broad economic viewpoint should properly deal with the press and public opinion with a perspective worthy of the cultural development of the society. Under the conditions of the revolutionary society of Iran being under invasion from various angles, attention to the culture building media appears more necessary than at any other time.

Notes

* For example, see a report entitled "The Bread Riot," which was published on page 14 of IRAN newspaper,

dated 13 Ordibehesht [3 May], one day after the prices of bread increased in the country.

*Minister Inaugurates Industrial Projects in Ilam

95LA0252D Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In celebration of the joyous feast of the sacrifice, eight industrial production projects went into operation on Wednesday [8 May] in the Province of Ilam in a ceremony attended by Industries Minister Mr. Ne'matzadeh.

The Central News Unit reported from Ilam that with the construction of these units, which will operate in the areas of textiles, machine production, food products, and construction materials, more than 6 billion rials in credits and $1.73 billion in foreign exchange credits were spent.

When these projects go into operation, every year from now on 1.5 million pairs of socks will be produced and marketed in this province, along with 3,360 tons of texturizing thread, 12,000 concrete pipes (usable in water and sewage networks), 12,000 tons of sweets, 250 tons of industrial nuts and bolts, and 1,000 tons of machinery including elevators, concrete-making machines, and electrical block breakers.

The same report states that when these projects go into operation close to 223 of this province's unemployed people will be hired.

It is worth mentioning that in addition to these projects, there are 132 active producing industrial units in various parts of the Province of Ilam, operating production lines in the areas of textiles, non-metallic ores, food products, and construction materials. About 80 other units are being constructed. The ceremonies putting the Province of Ilam's industrial producing units into operation were also attended by the governor general, the Majles deputies from the Province of Ilam, and local officials.

Paper Reports on Increase in Bread Prices

95LA0258J London KEYHAN in Persian 11 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] On the day after Clinton's embargo, the Islamic Republic regime increased the price of bread, which has become the staple food for a large segment of the population, by 24-50 percent, and the price of bread, depending on the variety, reached 25-50 tumans per kilogram. This decision was announced on Tuesday (12 Ordibehesht/2 May). At the same time, the salary of a simple worker or employee does not exceed 15,000 tumans (less than $30). According to the government, this decision was made to make up for the price of fuel used in bakery ovens (natural gas and heating oil).

With the rapid inflation in Iran, bread has replaced rice more than ever before in the people's diet.

Appointments to Various Offices Announced

95LA0258F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 24 May 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In separate decrees issued by Engineer Mirsalim, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, 'Abbas 'Ali Barati was appointed as the cultural attach of Iran in Nigeria, 'Ali Mohammad Amorollahi-Biyuki as the cultural attach of Iran in Karachi, and Mostafa Omidi as the cultural attach of Iran in Sierra Leone.

In the Ministry of Mines and Metals, according to a decree by Eng. 'Ali Kolahduz-Esfahani, the mines and materials procurement deputy, Eng. 'Aref Hamedi was appointed as the director general for non-metal materials of this ministry.

In a decree by Dr. Mohammad Soleymani, the student deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Dr. Mahmud Mowlanezhad, was appointed the advisor for student affairs abroad and began his duties. Previously, Dr. Mowlanezhad was the supervisor of Iranian students in India.

Upon the suggestion of Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani and the approval of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, Dr. Parviz Nurpanah, Dr. Khosrow Piri, Dr. Seyyed Hashem Musavi, and Dr. Mohsen Mohseni-Saravi were appointed as the presidents of the Universities of Hormozgan, Ilam, Zanjan, and Agricultural Sciences of Gorgan, respectively. The above had previously served as the supervisors of these universities.

Also, the minister of culture and higher education in another decree appointed Dr. Hushang Talebi as the supervisor of Shahr-e Kord University.

Eng. Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries, selected Eng. Hoseyn Arvari as the new general manager of the Iranian Handicraft Industries. Previously, Arvari was the technical deputy of Iranian Customs.

Press Said Lacking 'Credibility'

95LA0258G London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Ceremonies were held on the occasion of "Press Week" in the Islamic Republic, and prizes were also distributed. Almost all the press affiliated with the regime took this opportunity to aggrandize the efforts of the regime, except for SALAM, which alongside that "religious duty" also conducted a poll. Almost all those who referred to the credibility of newspapers, in fact, spoke of their lack of credibility and did not consider them trustworthy. Nearly 90 percent of the respondents regarded their lack of trust in newspapers as due to the existence of censorship.

Rafsanjani Meeting Excludes SALAM Manager

95LA0258H London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting and interview Hashemi-Rafsanjani held with the managers of the press, and which radio and television also broadcast in detail (two and a half hours), all Tehran newspaper mangers were present, except for Mohammad Musavi-Kho'ini, the manager of SALAM.

SALAM, which Rafsanjani unsuccessfully tried hard to close, attacks Rafsanjani on two fronts: First, it has not been enthusiastic about the policy called "modification" and indicates that the president intends to bring the United States back to Iran at any price, something that Rafsanjani may want but does not have the power to do. Second, SALAM presents Rafsanjani's anti—U.S. statements as a "pretense."

Informed circles say that Rafsanjani did not succeed in closing SALAM because the front that he had created with Khamene'i against the "Assembly of Combative Clerics" which resulted in stopping the access of Karubi, Mohtashami, Musavi-Ardabili, and Kho'ini to various organizations fell apart before Rafsanjani could implement his plan.

Of course, all newspapers published the text of that long interview in several issues, with the exception of SALAM.

Prices Increase 30 Percent for Foreign Flights

95LA0258I London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The price of foreign flights in Iran increased by 30 percent. The National Airlines Organization, without announcing the decision ahead of time and setting some time for its implementation, pointed out that this increase will be implemented immediately.

Hence, passengers who had purchased their tickets earlier must pay the difference due to the price increase for their tickets to be valid.

The increase in the price of foreign flight tickets occurs while the government law officially announced that this year (1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996], of which only a little more than three months have passed), no government organization or subsidiary has the right to increase the price of its goods and services.

The National Airlines did not announce whether or not this price increase has been approved by the Supreme Economic Council, but announced instead that the 20,000-tuman exit tax collected at the airports has been abolished.

Pakistan

Cabinet Reviews Karachi, U.S. Statement

BK2006125995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Jun 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The Federal cabinet on Monday [19 June] reviewed the overall law and order situation in the country and particularly reiterated its position on Karachi and the stand taken by the Foreign Office on a statement issued by the US State Department.

The Cabinet, which met at the Parliament House, had a very light agenda. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was in the chair.

A government spokesman briefed newsmen about the Cabinet's decisions. Responding to a number of question the spokesman said since the law and order was a provincial subject, it was the prerogative of the provincial governments to take decisions in this respect. The federal government could only review the situation, he added.

Asked if the situation prevailing in Karachi also came under discussion during the meeting, the spokesman who avoided a direct answer just said that the "Federal Government has repeatedly made its position clear on the issue." He denied a foreign radio report that 38,000 army troops were presently being deployed at Karachi.

Responding to another question that if the cabinet also reviewed the situation arising out of the recent statement by a US State Department spokesman on the treason charges against Nawaz Sharif, the spokesman said the Foreign Ministry has already declared Pakistan's position on the issue.

The spokesman did not offer any comment when asked if the cabinet discussed appointment of Gen (Retd) Raja Saroop Khan as new Governor of Punjab.

The decisions included the approval of 16 schemes worth Rs [rupees] 9,353.525 million which will improve education, environment, health, physical planing and housing, transport and communications, develop water resources and rural development in four provinces of the country.

The cabinet also approved the transfer of Forestry Wing from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Environment Affairs Division to chalk out a comprehensive national environment policy. These schemes, the spokesman said were spread over all the four provinces and likely to be completed within next one to four years.

He said the Forestry Wing was transferred to Environment and Urban Affairs Division to give an appropriate direction to conserve the renewable and expandable resources.

The report on the position of the schemes had been submitted by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council [ECNEC]. The Committee was informed that ECNEC had approved these schemes.

The official spokesman said the schemes include: provision of telecommunication facilities in Balochistan, Flood Management of Mari Bugti Hills, procurement of buses for Karachi Transport Corporation, procurement of drilling rigs for exploration of ground water in Sindh arid zone, construction of overfly on Rashid Minbas Road, Karachi, construction of flyover on Clifton bridge, Karachi, construction of metalled road from Chachro to Umerkot, Greater Hyderabad Solid Waste Management and Disposal Project, improvement of existing sewerage treatment plants in Islamabad, establishment of Karachi Institute of Radiotheraply and nuclear medicines and implementation of 300 rural water supply and sanitation schemes in Punjab.

He said the cabinet approved amendment in the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council [PMDC] Ordinance 1962 in order to empower the PMDC to enforce uniform standards in medical and dental education and to regulate the opening of new medical and dental colleges.

The spokesman said the cabinet approved promulgation of a legislation to amend existing law to conform to the provision of 1982. The legislation will allow Pakistan to secure international systems of marine research and prevention of marine pollution and secure a few assignments/training facilities.

The signing of an agreement with Switzerland for promotion and reciprocal protection of investment between the two countries was also approved by the Cabinet, he said.

The Cabinet also approved the signing of an agreement with Italy for the promotion and protection of investment.

The Cabinet also approved to allow exemption to the Pakistan Telecommunications Company Limited From the payment of income tax, super tax and wealth tax for a period of three years from the date of transfer.

Minister Discusses U.S. Ties, Iran, Other Issues

BK2106055495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Jun 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — We will not be a base for any country and never have been since we opted out of the pacts, says Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

In an interview to the NATION/NAWA-I-WAQT panel on Tuesday [20 June], the Foreign Minister spoke at length about the vast spectrum of foreign policy issues confronting Pakistan as well as about his track-record as Foreign Minister.

It was in the context of Pakistan-US relations in wake of the concern shown by Washington about treason charges against Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif, that the Foreign Minister stated that on some issues Pakistan does not see eye-to-eye with the United States. "For example, we don't agree with their policy on Iran," he said. When asked whether the Americans had asked Pakistan to do their bidding against Iran, he said that no such request had ever been made and that Pakistan would not become a base for any country. The Foreign Minister said difference of perceptions was nothing unusual and even the Europeans and the Americans had this difference as the Europeans were not willing to go along with the embargo on Iran.

Advocating a realistic approach towards foreign policy formulation, the Foreign Minister asked: "Can we get anything out of cursing the Americans or will be succeed through established channels of diplomacy?" He agreed that injustice had been done to Pakistan regarding the Pressler Amendment, but added, "the world is not being run on justice but on interests and we have to survive in this environment."

Realising this, he said, the government decided to mend relations with the United States without compromising on Pakistan's position. "Today you see the vindication of Pakistan's position when President Clinton has admitted that Pakistan was wronged, that it had a just case on the Pressler Amendment and that he would work with the Congress to reverse this injustice.

"People ask what have we brought back from the United States," he said. "I say we have brought back our dignity and our honour."

"Dilating on the nuclear issue, Sardar Asif stressed "we have given no concession." He said the government had taken a lot of criticism which was very unfair but it did not over-react. He said Clinton had now admitted that Pakistan had genuine security threats, he said Pakistan had given concessions in some other areas like supporting the indefinite extension of the treaty and going along with the fissile material cut-off treaty after recording reservations. "These concessions don't compromise our nuclear policy," he said.

Talking about his impending visit to Afghanistan be said his main objective was to talk to different leaders and find out what the difficulties were in agreeing to a UN peace plan. He said he would visit all the major leaders, form his own opinion about the main difficulties and then give some proposals to the UN Special Envoy on Afghanistan Mahmood Mestire. "Everyone talks about the UN plan so I want to find out what the reservations are," he stated.

Sardar Asif also said that he would review bilateral relations wit Afghanistan. "But we have no favourites," he pointed out.

Speaking about the Kashmir issue and relations with India, the Foreign Minister said that the Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee had given some statements in the media but there was no indication that India wanted to hold serious talks. "What we are alarmed about is the Indian violation of ceasefire at the Line of Control (LoC)" he said, adding that he had asked the COAS [Chief of Army Staff) that he wanted to visit the Neelam Valley and Siachen.

About Track-2 diplomacy, he said there were people with good intentions on both sides but the Indian government's strategy is clear, smash the freedom movement. India is using things like elections and offers of talks to divert world attention from its brutality in held Kashmir, he said. "The world believes in status quo and it finds it convenient to buy the Indian approach," he stated. "As part of this package of lies, India is using Track-2 diplomacy to confuse the world. "He said if India was serious, whey doesn't it listen to Track-2 diplomacy and lower the repression in Held Kashmir. But he maintained that Pakistan was not opposed by Track-2 diplomacy.

He said the present government had brought the Kashmir issue back into world focus. After the Charar Sharif tragedy he had received messages from all over the world condemning the destruction and expressing sympathy for the Kashmir cause. The OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] chairman and the Secretary General too had given strong statements. The UN Secretary General had also raised the issue.

He said when he took over as Foreign Minister, Pakistan was faced with many problems including the threat of being placed on the terrorists watch list. There was also a virtual silence on Kashmir while the struggle inside Kashmir was becoming intense. "We established cohesion in the Held Kashmir leadership," he said.

In addition, he said, there was intense pressure from the United States to open up our nuclear facilities for inspection. "But we preserved our peaceful nuclear programme," he added.

"I am also the author of Pakistan's Central Asia policy," said the Foreign Minister. "They are like six Kashmir." He said Azerbaijan had moved the Kashmir resolution at Casablanca summit. "This is the camp which used to veto us," he stated. According to him Tajikistan says that if there is any country which has promoted peace, it is Pakistan. "Whey aren't we happy about Pakistan's successes? he asked. "Good news should be played up."

"The Foreign Minister said there are many constraints in formulating Pakistan's foreign policy "We have to pursue foreign policy through economic relations but we have very little resources. India can spend eight times more than us." He said Pakistan faces an adversary which is eight times in strength with us but faces the same issues. Second, Indian culture has great projection and the west is attracted because it sees Indian culture as exotic. "India is even using our culture as its own," he said. He gave the example of Taj Mahal saying "it is a little Pakistan left behind in Agra."

Thirdly, he said application of some religious laws gets Pakistan adverse publicity in the international community as does ethnic violence. "The internal situation hurts us greatly," he stated.

Turkmenistan Official Discusses Pipeline Project

BK1906135095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A delegation of technical experts will visit Turkmenistan shortly to finalize details of the Pakistan-Turkmenistan gas pipeline project. It would be followed by a tripartite meeting among the petroleum ministers of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan for giving final shape to the route map of the proposed pipeline. The project would bring 1.6 billion cubic feet gas per day from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. The agreement was reached in a meeting in Islamabad today between the oil and gas minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Ishanov, and the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah. They discussed various socioeconomic aspects of the project and reviewed the progress so far made since the signing of a memorandum of understanding this year. Mr. Anwar Saifullah informed that this project is very important for Pakistan and the vitality of the project could be gauged from the fact that the prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, has personally taken the charge of implementation of this project. Mr. Ishanov said the development of gas fields situated in (Soqatabad), where from gas is to be exported to Pakistan, has already been completed and they are ready for supplying gas.

Leghari Wants Karachi Resolved Through 'Consensus'

BK2006162195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said that there is need for a constant and meaningful dialogue between the government — both federal and provincial — and all political parties and representatives of all segments of society in order to end violence and bring peace and harmony in Karachi. He was talking to various delegations comprising intellectuals, businessmen, ulema [religious scholars], political leaders and prominent citizens in Karachi today.

Talking to various delegations, he said as the president of Pakistan, it was his responsibility to build a consensus to solve the problems of Karachi which are serious, complex and multidimensional. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said terrorism and violence were harming the whole population of Karachi and needed to be tackled by all including the government, the political parties and opinion leaders so that the population of Karachi could be provided ample opportunity to carry out their normal economi activities.

The president referred to the Karachi package announced by the prime minister for the overall socioeconomic uplift of the city, and said the package program will also be directed toward other important segments, including communications, power supply, sewerage and the mass transit scheme for the betterment of the population living in Karachi and its adjoining areas. He underscored the importance of Karachi as a nerve center of the country's economic activity and called that all-out efforts must be made to normalize its business and economic activity in order to attract local and foreign investment.

The members of the delegation submitted a number of proposals to the president. The president assured them that due consideration will be given to their proposals. The meetings were also attended by the Sindh governor, Mr. Kamal Azfar; the chief minister, Syed Abdullah Shah; and the minister of state for law and parliamentary affairs, Mr. Raza Rabbani.

Karachi Reinforcement Faces 'Strong Reluctance'

BK1906162495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, June 19 (AFP) — The regional governments of Balochistan and Punjab Monday [19 June] expressed strong reluctance to comply with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's request to send reinforcements to assist police and paramilitary forces in the southern port city of Karachi.

Bhutto said Saturday that paramilitary troops from Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Balochistan would be sent to assist security forces in Sindh Province. No numbers or timetable were announced.

The Pakistani Government has sought to bolster 38,000 police and paramilitary Rangers in the strife-torn port city of Karachi where more than 145 people have been killed in violence this month.

"I strongly suggest they negotiate with the opposition rather than add fuel to fire," Zulfiqar Magsi, the chief minister of Balochistan told AFP from Quetta. "It is better to negotiate than pump in troops."

He said Balochistan had already sent several men to Sindh Province and could not spare any more.

A senior Balochistan official reacted even more strongly, saying that security problems were an internal matter for each province.

"We don't ask them for help. They should look after their own affairs. We cannot act like mercenaries there," he said.

A senior Punjab official said his government too was wary of sending forces to Karachi.

"We have not made up our minds to send Punjab police to Karachi because we don't agree with this proposal. But we have not refused them either," the Punjab government official told AFP in Lahore.

A senior Sindh official meanwhile said: "There can be no such thing as a refusal. It is part of our duty to serve wherever we are ordered."

A spokesman for the federal government in Islamabad denied that the two provincial governments had refused to send troops but acknowledged that some units were under the jurisdiction of the provinces.

Another senior Sindh official said more troops were urgently needed in Karachi to protect government installations which have come under increasing attacks over the past month.

Western analysts and security officials have been critical of the decision to ask for more troops, saying that would not end Karachi's endemic strife. They advocate a political resolution to the violence which has left more than 700 dead this year.

Editorial Sees U.S., Islam Diametrically Opposed

95AS0394B Lahore ZINDIGI in Urdu 4 May 95 p 33

[Editorial: "Islamic Fundamentalists and The United States; Afraid of Each Other"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is a proven fact that the United States has political control over the whole world. There is no doubt that Muslims are the most persecuted people in the world. The United States has played the most active role in committing atrocities against Muslims. If it is not involved through the United Nations; it participates directly. Its logic is that if something does not happen according to its wishes, it must react to it. However, in the case of atrocities committed on Muslims whether these are in Chechnia by Russia or in Kashmir by India, the United States is always there in support of the oppressor. This is a proven political fact of our time and it is difficult to disagree with it. The question is how can we rectify this situation?

There has been no opposition to the U.S. from Islamic leadership except for that from Iran and Sudan. Pakistan declares Chechnia to be Russia's internal issue and many Muslim nations either declare Kashmir to be India's internal affair or remain silent about it. If there is any expression of displeasure against any U.S. policy then it is from Islamic movements. Can the attitude of various Islamic movements help improve the situation? The answer to our first question is hidden in the answer to the second question.

Islamic movements all over the world express strong hatred toward the United States and many expressions of this hatred are coming to light. One of the minor displays of this feeling is under the "Crush America" heading in which anti-United States rallies and processions are carried out and its flag is burned. Militancy against the United States under the name of jihad has a separate story. In our opinion, this reaction is based on emotions only and it will not benefit the Muslims or the Islamic world. Instead, it is helping the United States indirectly in achieving its goals. Our opinion is based on two facts.

First, we have to recognize that after the disappearance of the Soviet Union from the international political horizon, the world is under the control of only one superpower. This is an unusual development and the United States is fully aware of it. It knows that this situation will not remain for long and another power could emerge which could change this unbalanced situation. This power could be a united Europe or Germany. Germany is a nation in which nationalism is rampant and it strongly remembers its past greatness. Thus, when even a movie against Nazism is made in the United States, Germany strongly opposes it. This shows that its memory has not been desecrated. Germany is also on strong military and industrial foundations. It is said that the best tanks in the world are being made in Germany now. The United States is aware of this danger. Therefore, it appears that to deal with this danger, it has presented the danger of "fundamentalism" to the world. On one side, it has given the impression that the Islam would be one partner in various confrontations in the future, and at the same time it wants to convince the world that the real danger to civilized world at present is from "Muslim fundamentalism." Those who keep an eye on world affairs know that it uses the CIA for murders and arson all over the world and then blames someone else for these. Now that the Islamic movements all over the world have raised the slogan for jihad and are encouraging militancy, the U.S. goal is being achieved. It is succeeding in what it wants the world to believe. Therefore, we believe that the present actions of Islamic movements indirectly are serving U.S. purposes.

Let us discuss the second reason now. The United States believes that one of the challenges to it in the future could be in the form of Islamic movements in Islamic countries. Therefore, it wants to crush these by starting fights among Muslim nations and movements. On one hand, it gives the impression to Islamic rulers that the real danger to them is from these "fundamentalists." On the other hand, its atrocious attitude against the Muslims creates anger among the emotional elements. That is what it wants. Therefore, the sooner the Islamic movements control this situation the better it would be for the Muslims.

Despite all the U.S. flaws we need to mention its genius for establishing a very stable government at home and it is based on popular vote. This fact also is like a ray of hope for the Muslims. The majority of U.S. citizens have no reason for any "ethnic confrontation" with Muslims. They have no religious crusades in their history. In addition, the people there are free and they have no restraints on having opinions. If the Muslims present their case to Americans and tell them what actually they want and what message Islam brings to humanity, it may take some time but the results will be very positive. When the democratic government in Algeria was stopped, it surprised the U.S. government. However, the reaction expressed by the FIS over it did not leave any soft spot in the West and the United

States for it. Now, it considers the basic step to keep the extremists out of power to be proper. However, when it presents its case against it to the world and presents the case to the people via U.S. media and other sources, it is not possible to defeat it in the "world of logic." It is unfortunate that these facts became exactly what the United States wanted them to look like.

Islam is the religion of peace and love. It is Allah's gift. It does not teach enmity against any country, instead it avoids war as much as possible. However, if it is forced upon it, it demonstrates unusual character. We have to admit that the average people in the world do not love Islam now because they are not aware of the real Islam. They believe Islam to be what the international media, which unfortunately is controlled by non-Muslims and anti-Muslims, want them to believe. When some incidents support this belief, their basic case is strengthened.

If you want to conquer the world now, the war is to be fought in the arena of reasoning. We must convince the world that Islam is not one's religion because one lives in an Islamic country. It can be the religion of any person that accepts it. His position then in an Islamic society will be the same as that of a Muslim from birth. The world is hungry for peace and love. We have to bring this news to it somehow that their salvation is possible only by associating with this religion. However, as we mentioned earlier that this goal can be achieved by reasoning and love. The era when arrows and swords made the decision belongs to the past and history cannot be turned back. The sooner the Islamic movements in various countries and at international level stop confrontations against the rulers of their countries and the United States the better it would be for the Muslims.

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